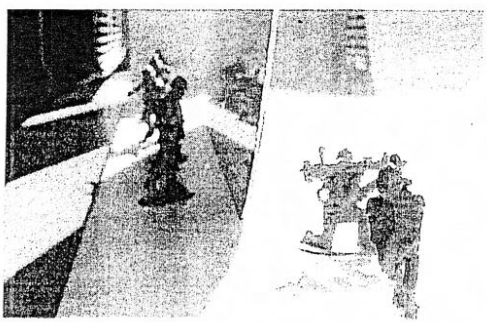
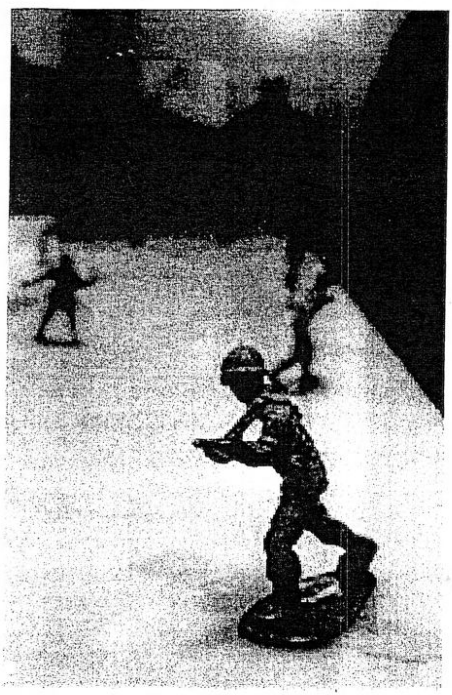
INTEREST MOTIVATED GROUP





COLLECTIVE WRITINGS FROM SIX YEARS OF DISOBEDIENCE
(COMPLETE WITH NEWS CLIPPINGS & POLICE FILES)

MUTINY COLLECTIVE 2003 - 2009

About this compilation

This book contains everything Mutiny wrote, or at least everything we could find copies of.

This includes a number of articles and flyers around issues that were of particular focus to us as a collective, such as war, Australian colonialism and gentrification.

There are also flyers that were prdocuded for more one-off events, such as solidarity protests and a clinic defense action against anti-abortion protesters. Some of these actions were organised by just some members of Mutiny rather than the whole collective, but we thought they were worth recording.

We've also included some of the attention we got from the corporate media and the cops, not because it actually reflects our activity but because it gives some idea of the climate we were working in. Also, some of it is funny.

We wouldn't necessarily produce all of the same material today. We're not collecting it as a model to be followed, but as a record of a our history: a fragment of the history of struggle in Sydney.

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October 2009

MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT MUTINY

(Unless you are the police, in which case you probably know it already).

Mutiny started in 2003 in response to the invasion of Iraq. At first Mutiny was simply a name used by a few people who were frustrated by the passivity and conservatism of the stage-managed anti-war demonstrations in Sydney. The name came from the slogan on one of the banners: "Mutiny: turn the guns around." This slogan (written in glitter on a floral bedsheet) expressed the politics that our real enemies were not Iraqis, but our own 'leaders', and that the only way to end the war was through rebellion and disobedience.

This first incarnation of Mutiny focussed on organising contingents in the large demonstrations, in order to not feel so isolated in the crowd. These blocs often had a pirate theme (in keeping with the nautical name), and some fairly silly chants. They sometimes distributed paint-filled eggs to our friends, who may have thrown them at, say, Prime Minister John Howard's office, or NSW Premier Bob Carr's car.

Mutiny had our first experience at police/media scandal in this era. In March 2003 a couple of comrades handed out a leaflet calling for anti-war direct action at a demonstration in Canberra. Police displayed this leaflet on the tv news in Sydney that night, while warning parents not to let their children go to the "Books Not Bombs" rally being held the next day.

Books Not Bombs was a high-school student protest called by Resistance, a socialist youth organisation. It was by far the best - though in some ways the worst - of the Sydney anti-war demonstrations. Thousands of angry, passionate young people ran through the streets of Sydney before being hemmed in by police outside John Howard's office. A significant proportion of the crowd were self-organised groups of Arab and Muslim teenagers, in stark contrast to earlier demonstrations that had been predominantly white. The police reaction therefore multiplied the paramilitary policing of protest with the paramilitary policing of crowds 'of middle eastern appearance.' Police ripped off a woman's hijab in order to start a fight and arrested and brutalised a number of people, as well as blocking the rally in for hours.

Mutiny's leaflet was well eclipsed by these events, and the furore from police and the media that followed them. The Basic Protest Safety leaflet in this compilation was produced by some people involved in Mutiny in preparation for a second Books Not Bombs protest a month later. This second protest wasn't as large or as dramatic as the first, but still involved police brutality, and high school students being chased across the city by riot cops, followed in turn by legal observers and other protesters (gee those kids could run fast).

In 2004 Mutiny began to meet more steadily, though still irregularly; and tried to strategise and plan more actions. The group never really had a political platform or a manifesto; we tended to describe ourselves as a "direct-action anti-war group" or a "revolutionary anti-war collective". At around the same time a group in Melbourne, Disobedience, formed along similar lines. We talked about refusing to see the war in Iraq in isolation, and trying to connect the war and our resistance to capitalism and everyday life; and about taking an experimental approach, in which we'd give actions a go and then reflect on them, trying not to simply repeat ourselves or wait (forever) until we had a perfect plan. Mutiny meetings were held in the courtyard of the Duck & Swan, a quiet pub in Chippendale: it's probably true that some of our best and worst ideas wouldn't have made it into action if at least some of the collective hadn't been drinking jugs of beer throughout most meetings. (We shifted our meetings to Black Rose Anarchist Library when they re-opened in March 2007, in order to be more accommodating of non-drinkers, and so we didn't have to fight to hear each other over the noise of the pub's kitchen exhaust fan).

Mutiny's main focus was on actions inside and in front of the offices of corporations profiting from war, and you can read a number of accounts of such actions here. Throughout this period Mutiny also spoke at a number of events, such as the Sydney Social Forum and other teach-ins we organised, about corporate involvement in war and the idea of direct action; organised Subplot, a gathering before protests against the Forbes 500 summit in August 2005; and worked with Students Against War to disrupt the stalls of war profiteers at careers fairs.

After a series of actions against a variety of companies, we decided that we might need a little more direction. So we decided to make ANZ bank an ongoing target because of its role in the Iraqi Trade Bank (that is, its role in the selling off of Iraqi resources to foreign companies). We also figured that because it was a bank with many branches and with a concern about public image, it was something a small collective could take on. We thought it might be possible to make them pull out of Iraq for the sake of public interests elsewhere. However, making ANZ leave Iraq was never our final aim: we saw it more as an opportunity to more generally expose the interests of corporations in the war.

Mutiny was part of a campaign along with other groups, including Students Against War collectives at various universities, that saw actions across Australia and in Aotearoa. ANZ withdrew from participation in university orientation week due to planned protests. The ANZ campaign hit a high point at Forbes. We successfully organised decentralised actions with numerous people involved and we shut down every ANZ branch in the city for 3 days straight, through simple but hilarious tactics like heaving "dead bodies" covered in fake blood into their branches, asking to exchange them for cash. For the most part,

though, it was just a matter of a small group storming into a branch, chanting "100 000 Iraqis dead; who's making profit? ANZ!!", and sometimes throwing around a few deposit slips. Usually it would only take a minute or two before the security screens would go up, and the branch would close. Once a few branches closed, every branch in the city would shut down.

The chance to network at these protests meant we'd talked with people from around the country and Aotearoa about this campaign and the potential of more co-ordinated action in the future.

Yet within a month most momentum was lost as Mutiny really struggled with weariness and a post-Forbes letdown. A number of people had left the country or were no longer involved. We were also learning that repeated office occupations and stunts were not necessarily any more empowering or effective than rallies, and, though no one had been arrested in any of our previous actions, people were less willing to risk arrest (generally an indication that folks thought the actions themselves weren't "worth it"). We were really small over the whole summer, and it seemed like it might be the end of Mutiny as a "direct-action collective". It was around this time that we decided to launch a free zine, also called Mutiny, which has been published every month since April 2006. One reason for starting the zine was that we thought it was something useful we could do with the small numbers we had at the time.

The people who were still left in the collective met and decided to shift focus from corporate involvement in the war in Iraq to the neglected issue of Australian troops and cops being sent to Pacific nations and East Timor, what interests they were serving there and how people were resisting them. It's probably fair to say that we were better at research and writing than we were at talking to people, and we never really found a way to connect what we were learning and thinking about to what people were doing.

In November 2006 the G20 met in Melbourne. A "Corporate Engagement Day" was called for Friday 17th November - the day before the summit meetings started. Mutiny, along with some of our Melbourne friends, took part in Corporate Engagement Day by briefly occupying offices of a number of our favourite corporations, including Tenix, Parsons Worley, Kellogg Brown & Root, Veolia/ Connex and Yarra Trams, and Australian Defence Force Recruiting. Again, ANZ closed every branch in the CBD after some people went into one for a little bit.

The next day, when the protest gathered about the Grand Hyatt hotel in downtown Melbourne, about 80 people, going by the name Arterial Bloc, donned white suits and bandannas and were joined by a few hundred more people when they diverged from the main rally. The breakaway group overturned some barricades, challenged police and smashed up a police brawler van.

A serious police crackdown began the next day. Sections of the left - most notably Socialist Alternative - immediately condemned Arterial Bloc. A spokesperson for the StopG20 Coalition, when asked on the radio who was responsible for 'the violence', named Mutiny. (His name is Marcus Greville.)

A member of Mutiny was named in police briefing notes as a leader of the protest. He was arrested in Sydney 6 months later. He was not charged with anything related to Arterial Bloc's actions, but was given exceptionally serious charges, including aggravated burglary, in relation to office occupations on Corporate Engagement Day. After a long, long court process he was recently found not guilty of the most serious charges and fined for two counts of unlawful assembly.

The repercussions of the G20 protests had quite a major effect on Mutiny, as they did on a number of other groups. As well as dealing with the police attention, and organising in solidarity with those people who were arrested, we were also significantly affected by the lack of solidarity shown by other sections of the left in the face of the broad police attack.

Throughout 2007 we continued our focus on the Pacific region, organising the *Aided and Raided* forum in April. A lot of our time and energy was, however, taken up with fundraising for G20 costs.

In September 2007 APEC met in Sydney. In the lead up to planned demonstrations we were worried that we might see something similar to what happened after the G20, in which protest organisers condemned others for their tactics. We made a number of public arguments about the rhetoric of non-violence and the role of the police and the state. Although we were not planning any actions (like everyone else in Sydney, we were intimidated by the police state being put into place for APEC), these arguments, and the fact that we had been publicly linked to the G20 protests, made us media and police scapegoats for imaginary violent protests. A public forum was organised to discuss the politics of direct action, which turned out to be the most successful forum we'd organised, with tonnes of people and useful interesting political discussion.

The *Daily Telegraph* proclaimed that the conference reader for Flare in the Void, a pre-APEC convergence that members of Mutiny were helping to organize, was a 'riot training manual'. A number of members of Mutiny had the police deliver letters to our houses telling us that we were on the excluded persons list, and were banned from entering much of the city under special APEC legislation.

A few months later we got files related to our inclusion on the excluded persons list, thanks to a friendly journalist who put in a Freedom of Information application. These files revealed that there had been quite a high level of

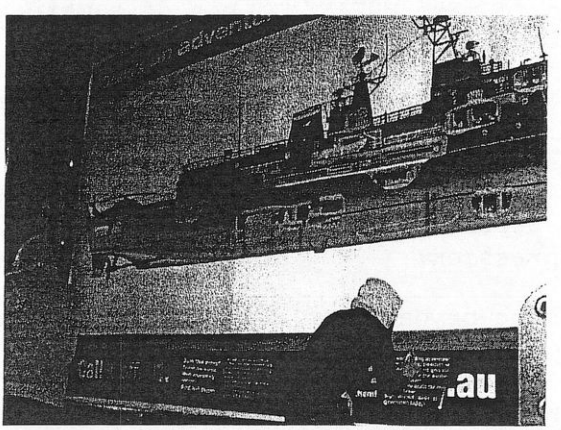
surveillance of our activities. Despite managing to remain reasonably level-headed in our levels of paranoia during this whole fiasco that was APEC, we'd be lying if we said that the actions of the state didn't have an effect on the collective, extending beyond the APEC period.

After APEC we made a decision to accept that we were being monitored and, in order to be able to act openly, that Mutiny wasn't going to organise anything that couldn't be public. Around this time we also began discussing our politics more solidly, with mutual aid, support, political solidarity and long-term revolutionary organising becoming focal points.

During this period, which some people refer to as our 'emo period' we also decided that we would focus our organinsing on what was happening in our daily lives and in the communities that we lived in. We became involved in a project related to the housing crisis in Sydney and the gentrification of the Redfern Waterloo area, a traditionally working class area of inner Sydney with a strong Aboriginal history and presence, which was under threat from a profit-driven 'redevelopment' being pushed by the state government. This project, called "Housing Action", unfortunately fell apart due to practical difficulties. It's still something a lot of us are interested in though.

Following the end of the housing action project the collective came back to inwardly focused discussion relating to the shared politics of the group and the overall question of what Mutiny was going to do next. We eventually decided that whilst we would continue to work together on other projects, we didn't see a continued role for a collective such as Mutiny at the moment. We decided to dissolve, rather than continue on merely for the sake of it. (The zine, in case you're worried, intends to continue).

- 28 October, 2009



A - I N F O S N E W S S E R V I C E
http://www.ainfos.ca/
http://ainfos.ca/index24.html

>From [redacted]
Please spread the word wildly and widely

MUTINY MEETING!
6 pm Thursday 27th February
Camperdown Memorial Rest Park, Newtown

Following the success of various recent autonomous anti-war activities , some comrades (i.e. us) have decided to make MUTINY! a bit of a more permanent formation.

MUTINY! hopes to be a space for all those that :Have a commitment to non-hierarchical and libertarian methods of organised; are opposed to all capitalist war, sanctioned by the UN or not; realise the only way to peace is through the complete abolition of all oppression;

seek to go beyond mere protest to creative direct action ; and know that the only way to stop this war is a general social mutiny. So come along and get down! (plates of food and a comradely attitude are more than welcome)

It's time to misbehave:

'discipline' is for armies - & prisons - & schools - & workplaces. All the places we're trying to escape. Not for rallies and protests.

Protesters don't need marshals to guide us in 'appropriate action'. People are angry and horrified at the actions of governments in this country and others. We are able to make our own decisions about how we act on this.

We're not the ones who have to worry about disturbing the peace. Peace was killed long ago by those in power, and asking politely isn't going to bring it back.

We don't want to see marshals acting like cops, containing protesters in the sanctioned area, herding us like cattle. We refuse to be contained within a designated protest zone that leaves the rest of the city in business-as-usual.

We also refuse to limit our actions to those the middle-class self-appointed leaders decide are 'respectable'. We're not respectable people: our politics aren't respectable. And we have no respect for those who appoint themselves to lead us.

We invite you to join us, in ungovernable desire and sheer damn style.

SUNDAY MARCH 23

Mutiny bloc & trashbloc & friends are meeting from 12 noon, at the corner of Pitt & Hay sts - that's the far left hand corner of the park if you're heading from central. Look for the pirate flags and the black flags.

Suggested costume: disco*pirate*trash:*:anything to piss off 'north shore against the war'*
Suggested accessories: noisemakers*instruments*chalk*wit*paint filledeggshells* dancemoves*paint*brilliantplans*communication *everyoneyouknow*flags*posters*bandannas*songs

it's time to misbehave...

BASIC PROTEST SAFETY

This is some information that may help you stay safe and make informed decisions about what you want to do.

The first thing you can do to keep safe is to stick with others. Find a group of people you know and trust and try to stay together and look out for one another. This way you'll notice if friends are being hassled by police, or if they wander away from you. Act in solidarity to make sure that people don't get isolated from others and surrounded by police.

If you're planning actions, talk to your friends and other people around about what you want to do and what might happen. Consider the safety of people around you and the possible police reaction. It's important not to be scared off, but it's also important to give other people the choice to be involved or not. Be calm and focussed if things get intense. Try not to panic, and try to calm your friends and other people who might be panicking.

One of the most important reasons to stick with your friends is so you can help each other if someone's arrested. There are a few ways to do this.

ARREST SUPPORT

If someone you know is arrested, tell a legal observer. Find out where they are being taken, and make sure somebody goes to meet them. If people saw your friend being arrested, try to get their contact details straight away, so that they can be witnesses if your friend is charged, or has complaints against the police.

If you are arrested:

You only have to give your name and address. You don t have to answer any other questions. Usually, the best thing to do is say 'no comment'. The police will often try and question you informally, as if it's a friendly chat. Anything you say to them can be recorded and used as evidence against you or other people. Don't get involved in a conversation. Don't talk to them at all.

When you get to the police station, they have to let you call someone who can give you legal advice. This is your legal right so insist on it, and do it as soon as possible.

You also have the right to call somebody and tell them where you are.

UN-ARRESTS

These tactics might stop you being arrested, but they only work if there are more people around than there are police doing the arrest. They don't work if you're outnumbered.

* If the police grab you and you don't want to go with them, yell "stacks on", or "help me I'm being arrested" so people around you know you want them to help.
* If you want to help someone being arrested, grab onto them around their body.
* Basically, a couple of people should hold onto the arrested person and anyone else should hold onto the holders-on.
* If enough people link on and form a group around the person being arrested, you might be able to drag them away from the police and back into the crowd.
* If you get away get as far into the crowd as you can.

Participating in an unarrest could mean that you are also arrested. If you stick with a group you are more likely to succeed.

Passive resistance

You can make it harder for police to arrest you just by going limp. This does not count as 'resisting arrest', and it means that more police will have to carry you, so they won't be able to bother other people for a little while.

Capsicum spray

It is illegal for cops to use capsicum spray (CS spray) on unarmed people. But this doesn't stop them. If you get capsicum sprayed, it will hurt a lot. Try to remember that the pain is only temporary. Move into fresh air. Find somebody with water. Turn your head on the side and flush your eyes out.

If you have contact lenses on, they may trap the spray and you'll have to take them out.

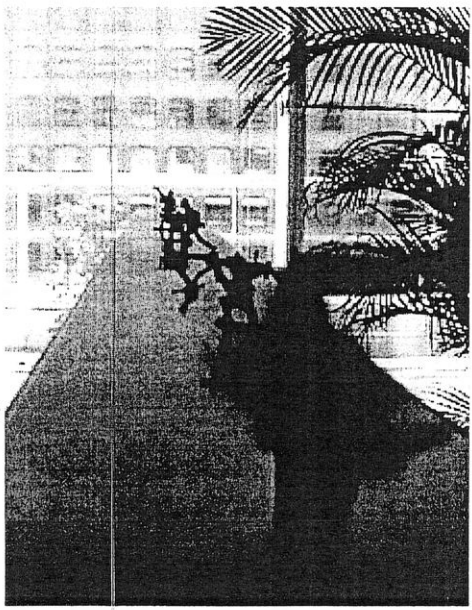
If you have asthma or other respiratory problems capsicum spray might make it hard for you to breathe. Carry your puffer with you.

The right to protest is a basic freedom and it s important that we don t let the police scare us away. The main weapon of police is fear. They can be intimidating, aggressive and sometimes violent. But if we try and keep each other safe we can deal with them.

Anti-war action at Worley Corporation

A report about a direct action against a war-profiteering company in Nth Sydney on Tuesday 29th of June, 2004.

From 10am on Tuesday the 29th of June activists "invaded" the headquarters of the Worley Group (Level 7/116 Miller Street, North Sydney) to protest the company's role in the 'reconstruction' of Iraq. Armed only with hundreds of small plastic soldiers, we non-violently disrupted Worley's business for over two hours.



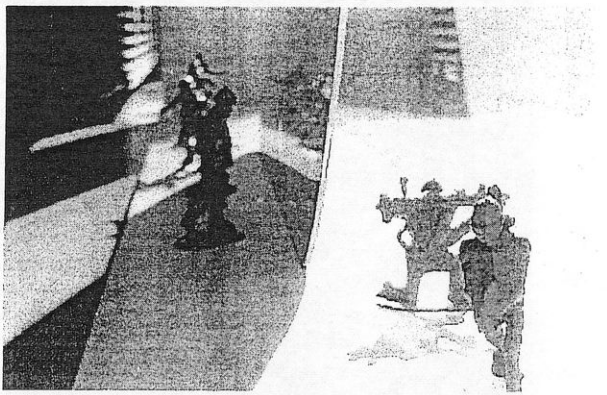
This action, on the day before the nominal handover of sovereignty in Iraq (or as it turned out the day after), had the purpose of highlighting the company's role in the corporate carve-up of the country. "Worley is currently reaping the rewards of an $800 million contract signed with the US military in January to construct oil infrastructure in occupied Iraq. Even after the alleged 'handover' of sovereignty, Iraqi's will have no power over this contracting process", said one protester.

With this knowledge in mind the protesters took to the headquarters of Worley where we had an uninterrupted passage into their level 7 offices. With a surprising ease of movement we dispersed through their offices, but also made sure that designated people were on hand to ensure the staff knew we would pose no danger to them. A boom box helped maintain an upbeat atmosphere.

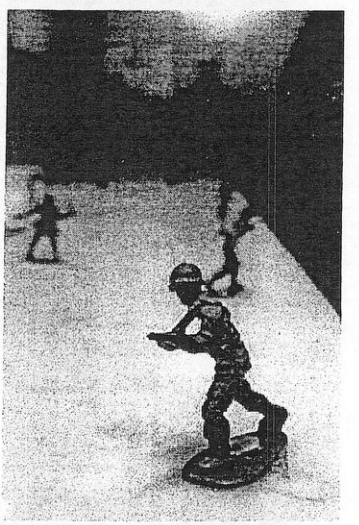
Of course having a vibrant group of 40 plus activists super-gluing hundreds of toy soldiers, as well as putting up posters, throughout the offices meant we did significantly interrupt their ability to conduct business. "We felt it was important to disrupt this company's capacity to conduct business as usual even if only for one morning. The toy soldiers are a small reminder of the reality of Worley's business: the success of their contract relies on the continuing military occupation of Iraq", said one of the occupying activists.

With near complete freedom of movement through the offices activists were able to take their message to all the workers and make it quite entertaining for at least those involved. The staff, who were annoyed to different extents, just milled about. Obviously the police were called, but it was an extremely

low-key arrival after we had already been in for about half an hour and at no time in the proceeding two hours were we ever officially asked to leave by the police. (Some post-action discussion I had resulted in the conclusion amongst a couple of us that maybe Worley wanted it to be kept low-key, especially with a Channel 7 news cameraman there).



After the action one activist explained why Worley might not have wanted public attention turned onto them, "They and other Australian companies are benefiting from the Howard government's decision to go to war. It is well known that the lucrative contracts created by the war on Iraq have gone only to corporations linked to the 'Coalition of the Willing'. The Australian government helps destroy the country, and Australian business makes millions rebuilding it. Companies like Worley are the only real 'winners' from the war on Iraq. This is how global capitalism works."

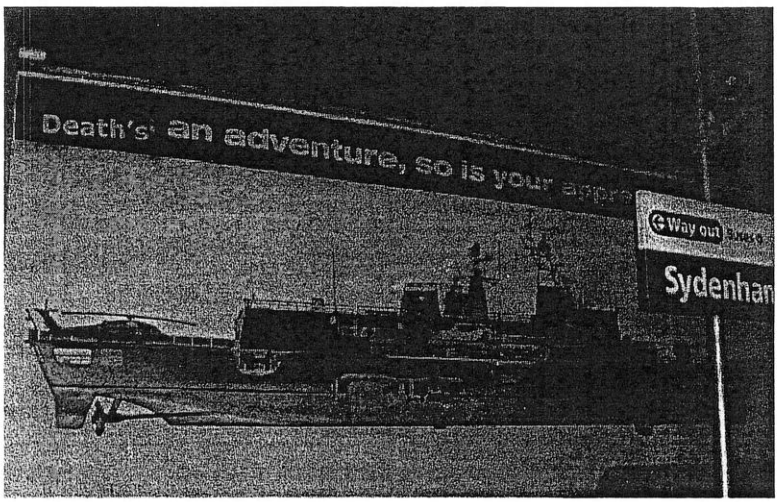


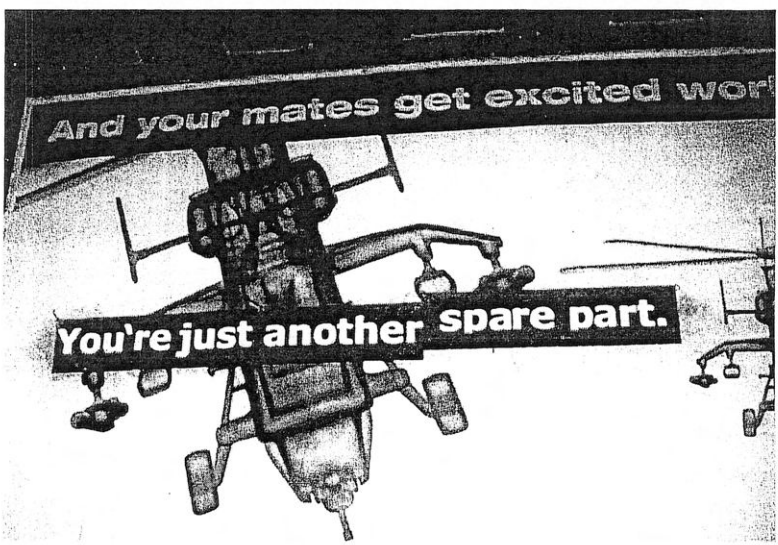
Inside, what followed was a process of negotiation with a company consultant speaking on behalf of management. They offered an interview with five delegates. Through a reasonably well-maintained democratic process that was non-hierarchical and without representation we decided that having been inside for well over an hour getting some information from the company might be worthwhile. However sticking points were that they would not let us take recording equipment in and wanted everyone else to leave while the interview was happening.

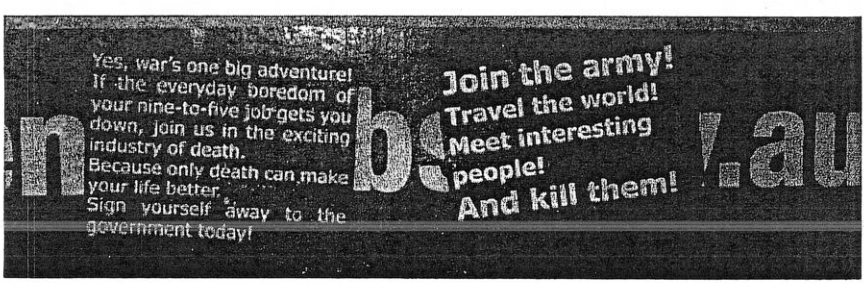
Ultimately we reached a stalemate. By now most staff had gone back to work and although the police remained quite low-key they were blocking access to many of the offices. After about 3 hours inside, with activists getting hungry and tired we came to a decision to leave.

However, we do intend to continue organising more actions like this, to take direct action against the machinery of war and those that profit from war.

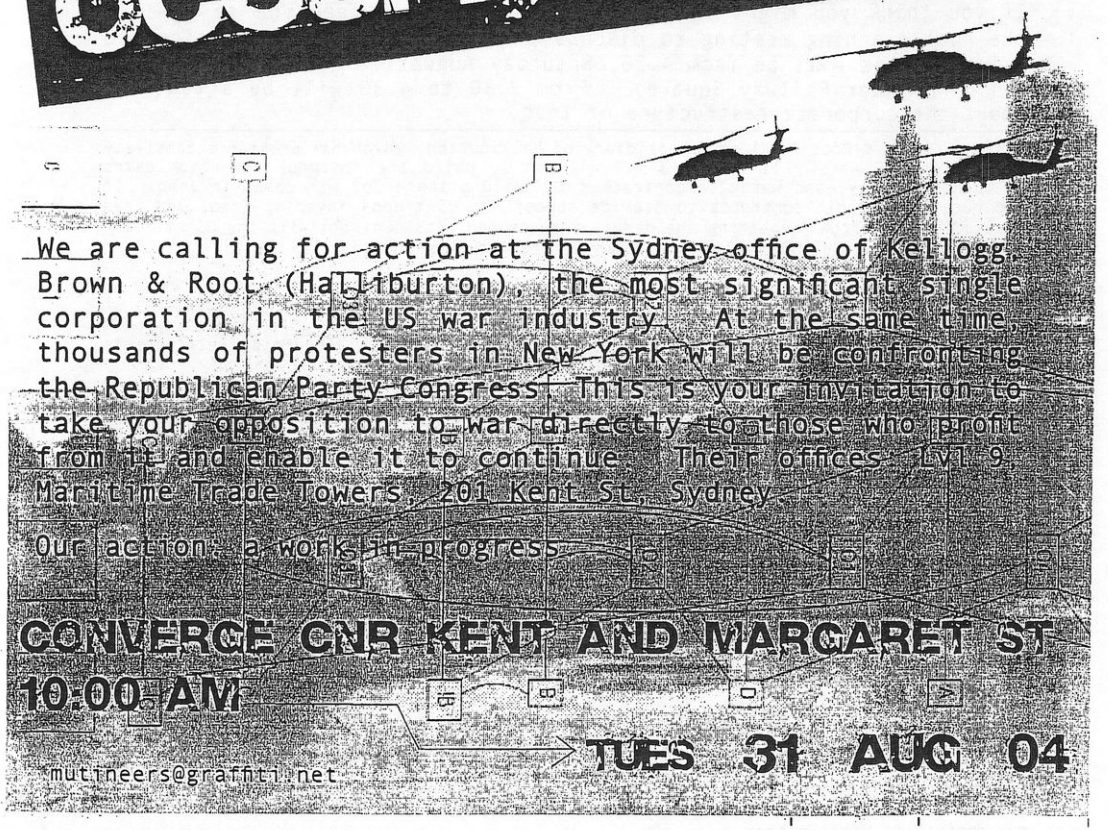
Altered Defence Force Recruiting billboards, July 2004






Yes, war's one big adventure!
If the everyday boredom of your nine-to-five job gets you down, join us in the exciting industry of death.
Because only death can make your life better.
Sign yourself away to the government today!
Join the army!
Travel the world!
Meet interesting people!
And kill them!

OPERATION OCCUPIED STATE



We are calling for action at the Sydney office of Kellogg, Brown & Root (Halliburton), the most significant single corporation in the US war industry. At the same time, thousands of protesters in New York will be confronting the Republican Party Congress. This is your invitation to take your opposition to war directly to those who profit from it and enable it to continue. Their offices: Lvl 9, Maritime Trade Towers, 201 Kent St, Sydney.

Our action, a work in progress.

CONVERGE CNR KENT AND MARGARET ST

10:00 AM

TUES 31 AUG 04

mutineers@graffiti.net

OPERATION OCCUPIED STATE

A call to action from Mutiny*

We are calling for action at the Sydney office of Kellogg, Brown & Root Halliburton), the most significant single corporation in the US war industry. This is your invitation to take your opposition to war directly to those who profit from it and enable it to continue. Their offices: Level 9, Maritime Trade Towers, 201 Kent St, Sydney. Action convergence: 10am, Tuesday August 31st, 2004, the corner of Kent & Margaret Streets.

Our intention for the August 31 action is to create an action to which people can choose bring their own plans & participate as they see fit, and at which here'll be mutual respect for different tactics. The plan we're inviting people to join for the day is a theatrical 'die-in' in and around the building. We consider this a way of graphically bringing the war home to a corporation profiting from it, and at the same time disrupting the operations of their business.

If you think you might be participating, we encourage you to come to the final planning meeting to discuss protest organisation, tactics and safety. This will be from 4.30, Saturday August 28th, in the UTS Tower Building (near Railway Square). From 2.30 to 4.30 will be a teach-in about the corporate restructure of Iraq.

Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR) is a subsidiary of Halliburton, which has profited extensively from recent US wars. It was paid $33 million to build the infamous detention camps at Guantanamo Bay, and was also contracted to build prisoner of war camps in Iraq. It had hugely profitable contracts to provide support to US troops invading Iraq, and then profited further from repairing the damage they caused. Its contract with the US military is worth at least $500 million, with the potential to increase to $7 billion after reconstruction.

Halliburton's access to lucrative reconstruction contracts has been questioned because of the company's close ties to US Vice President Dick Cheney, who is still on their payroll. This 'conflict of interest' is just one example of the mutually beneficial relationship between the US state's war mission and the workings of free-market capitalism.

The reconstruction of Iraq is being overseen by a number of international agencies as well as the US government. Their names are familiar to those of us concerned with how corporate power affects our lives: the IMF, the World Bank, etc. Their aim is to fundamentally alter the Iraqi economy.

If Iraqis do get to choose their president in promised elections early next year, their entire economy will be privatised. Bechtel will run Iraq's water supply, and Parsons, Iraq's prisons. All of Iraq's two hundred state enterprises will be sold off. Even State TV will be run by corporations. This economic architecture will be in place for forty years.

Attempts to force free market policies onto local economies aren't limited to Iraq. Unlimited corporate power, a disposable labour force with no political control, all enforced through military policing: this is the neoliberal vision for the entire world.

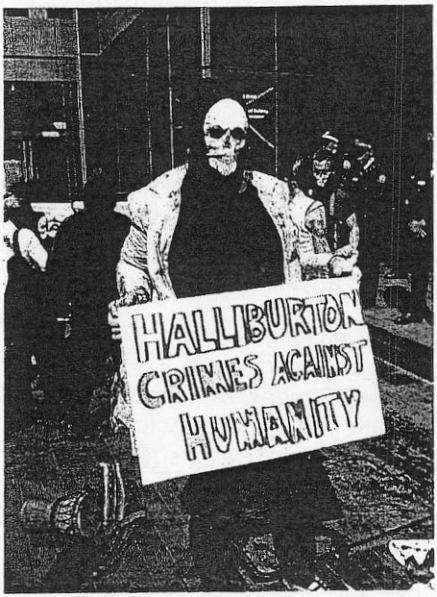
In defiance of all capitalist war, we seek to disrupt business as usual in order to highlight the destruction caused by this collusion of business interests and government policy. In taking direct action we aim to hold KBR accountable for their role in this system of war profiteering. By targeting KBR on this date we are also acting in solidarity with those protesting against the Republican National Convention in New York. Just as the systems of war and capitalism are global, so is opposition to them, and we want to make our opposition visible here.

We invite you to participate however you see fit. Come on August 31st with your group and your ideas. Come to a Mutiny meeting (details below) if you want to help organise the Operation.

*Mutiny is a revolutionary anti-war group. We meet regularly in Chippendale. The day changes: email mutineers@graffiti.net & we'll let you know when the next meeting is. Or email to find out more, make suggestions, or RSVP.

A press release from Operation Occupied State, 31 August 2004, & an image from the demonstration.

PEACE PROTESTORS VOW TO QUESTION WAR PROFITEERS



Peace protestors preparing for civil disobedience in Sydney today say they're ready to take action against corporations who benefit from the war in Iraq, after days of protests against the Iraq war in the United States.

They say they'll target the Sydney office of Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg Root and Brown, as several hundred thousand people nonviolently protest the Republican National Convention in New York.

Called in response to the A31 day of direct action against the Republican National Convention, activists say that they'll draw attention to corporate profit-making in Iraq. The country's economy has been largely privatized since last year's invasion by US-aligned nations.

Kellogg Root and Brown have been one of the big winners from no-bid contracts in Iraq. US Congressman Henry Waxman calling on Friday for fifteen percent of Halliburton's Iraq revenue to be returned, citing corporate fraud.

'Not a cent has been sent to rebuild Iraq's schools and hospitals', says protest spokesperson Vikram Singh.

'Meanwhile, oil gouging corporations have made billions from an Iraq economy that's been privatized. Iraqi people haven't had a say, and won't get one for forty years, about how their economy should work. These contracts can't be changed if planned elections happen next year.'

'Unprecedented corporate greed is contributing to Iraqi need. And international corporations won't employ Iraqis, despite huge unemployment problems'.

'It's American and Australian companies that are making money from this war. And civil disobedience is the only way to let people know about that corporate money trail.'

Kellogg Root and Brown has also been criticized for constructing Camp X-Ray, Cuba, where prisoners taken during the Afghanistan war have been held for two years without trial.

Protest organizers Mutiny peacefully occupied Australian engineering corporation Worley's offices last month, citing Worley's management of Iraq's northern oilfields.

Surprise Party for Haliburton!

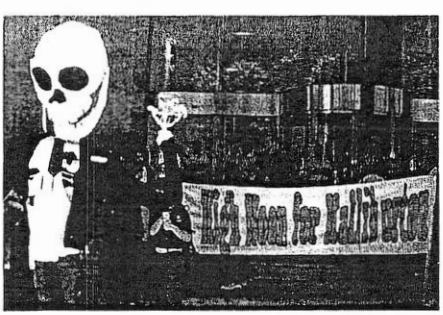
by mutiny crew Friday December 03, 2004

Rich People For Global War celebrate Kellog, Brown & Root's success as war profiteers.

At 8.30am this morning in the big end of Sydney, pro-business lobby group Rich People For Global War (RP4GW) threw a surprise party for Haliburton subsidiary Kellog, Brown & Root (KBR). For those that don't already know of KBR's success, this is the company that built the prison at Guantanomo Bay, sets up and maintains the US army's camps in Iraq and also holds a contract worth up to $5 billion to reconstruct Iraqi infrastructure. In short, KBR manages to have a finger in every pie that has anything to do with war industry.

Deciding it was high time to celebrate KBR's success at promoting and profiteering from war, and noticing that a group of pesky anti-war protesters in Melbourne were targeting KBR today, RP4GW decided to throw a surprise party for the workers. A small and festive group entered the building and caught the lifts up to their level. Unfortunately being such good workers who are always aiming to increase profits they wouldn't let the funsters through their glass security door. But RP4GW through the party right there in the foyer! Complete with certificates of excellence in 'resource exploitation', cupcakes with little Aussie flags, balloons and party games such as 'Duck, duck, insurgent', this was a party to end all parties.

The workers, although a bit shy and unwilling to participate, were drawn away from their desks to watch as the fun went on. They were also extremely modest, claiming that being in Sydney they had little to do with KBR's success in leading the way for entrepreneurial imperialism. But RP4GW were still happy to celebrate with them. Ultimately however, after about 40 minutes of jolly good fun the police, who never want anyone to have any fun, decided to end the party. And to the disappointment of all concerned the party was broken up and RP4GW left the building.



Images from a protest against Halliburton & ANZ held the same day in Melbourne

Anti war activists take action against ANZ

Posted January 20th, 2005 by Students Against War

Anti war activists in Sydney and Brisbane took action against ANZ today, picketing the business centre in Martin Place, branches throughout Sydney and the corporate headquarters in Brisbane.

As part of a Global Day of Action called to coincide with the inauguration of George Bush in the US, Around 70 anti war activists protested ANZ's involvement in the Iraq war in Sydney today, staging creative pickets of the business centre in Martin Place and branch offices throughout the city. Outside the business centre there was a short play about a young couple getting a homeloan with an ANZ banker, "some might say we rate the interests of Iraqi's low, but I say, as long as we keep our interest rates even lower, were doing o.k.", then the doors were blocked with a "die in" and speeches were given about the terrible situation in Iraq, the illegitimacy of the upcoming elections and the state of the global anti-war movement.

At branch offices, others invaded foyers and played "Iraq Monopoly", pushing soldiers and tanks around a board, buying up the water supply, electricity schools, hospitals and of course oil. Although these actions were a bit disruptive, the fact that they were creative I think made the police a little more aloof than they have been in the pass ... less sure about how to deal maybe? I hear one copper tell an ANZ security guard who wanted to move us out of the doorway, "not until they finish their play". Leaflets were distributed throughout the city explaining the role ANZ are playing in Iraq, calling on customers to boycott the bank and encouraging people to get active around the war. Also, in Brisbane, 30 people attended a speak out outside ANZ's headquaters in the city, demanding the bank get out of Iraq.

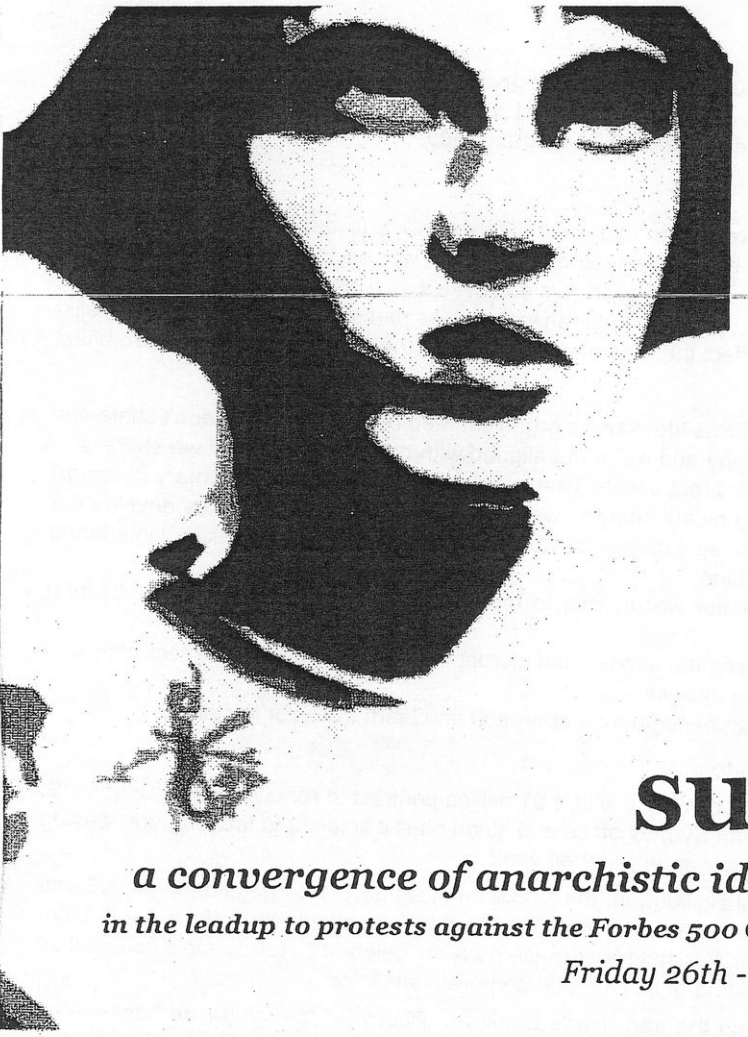
Large crowds of people gathered to watch these performances and many seemed hungry to find out more information. There seems to be a deep anti-war sentiment among the population. The anti-war movement here is slowly starting to grow again - we need to think of effective forms of political action that could give expression to this sentiment and ways of making our networks more accessible.

ANZ is just one example of an Australian company which is making millions from the war and the intense neo-liberal restructuring of Iraq's economy. It is part of an international consortium called the "Iraq Trade Bank", set up by the US occupation, which is playing a crucial role in encouraging waves of imported products to flood into

the country. Local industries have simply not been able to compete and most have been forced to shut down. This phenomenon has left 70% of Iraqi's unemployed. The country continues to sink into ever worsening poverty.

The Trade Bank also gives critical political and financial support to the puppet "Interim Iraqi Government"; the government would not be able to operate without the loans and corporate connections provided by the bank. This government and the sham "elections" it will hold on January 30, have virtually no support from the Iraqi people. The two main issues colour the lives of ordinary Iraqis - the brutality of the US occupation and the poverty caused by economic reforms - are not up for negotiation no matter who wins the "election". We will continue to campaign against ANZ until they give up their contracts in Iraq and withdraw their support for this murderous government.

These demonstrations were primarily organised by "Students Against War" a cross campus coalition and "Mutiny", who have organised similar actions against a number of corporations profiting from the war. For more information on the anti war movement see disobedience.nomasters.org and www.stopwarcoalition.org For more info on the "Iraq Trade Bank" that ANZ is a part of see Corpwatch article "Banking on Empire", http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=9848



subplot:

a convergence of anarchistic ideas and actions

in the leadup to protests against the Forbes 500 Global CEO Conference

Friday 26th - Monday 29th August

At the Sydney Opera House from August 30th, as part of the Forbes Global CEO conference, the heads of some of the richest and most influential corporations in the world will gather. A mocking fuck you from those responsible for labour abuses, environmental destruction, war profiteering, etc, etc. A fuck you that implies nothing we do can resist the paths they plot for global capitalism.

But every storyline is made up of many subplots. This is ours.

Subplot aims to explore our affinities though a diversity of workshops around ideas and tactics of organised autonomous resistance, for the Forbes protests and ongoing resistance. So bring your creativity and inspiration. And your anger and frustration. We want to discuss all aspects of resistance and creating revolutionary change.

This was the introduction to the program for subplot, "a convergence of anarchistic ideas and actions in the lead up to protests against the Forbes 500 Global CEO Conference," held 26-29 August 2005.

Mutineers setting sail

Mutiny is a group interested in exploring different ways to oppose war at home and abroad. It was formed by people who don't see the war on Iraq as an aberration in a system that is otherwise fair and good. We don't see it as a unique episode of violence in a world that is otherwise at peace. Instead we see it as part of global systems of capitalist exploitation that also affect the lives of people all over the world: systems that also affect our own lives.

This understanding informs the way we organise. Members of the group don't share any strictly defined philosophy and we're not aligned with other groups. What we share is:

- A commitment to direct action. That is, rather than asking parliamentary (or other) representatives to nicely help us, we want to find tactics that help us develop our collective strength, as a means of developing power in our own lives and interfering with the war machine.
- A desire to link the war in Iraq to the war at home, state racism and general repression.
- A desire to investigate, expose and disrupt the interests business (specifically and generally) have in this war.
- We try to take an experimental approach and learn from our mistakes

Previous actions include

Worley - an Australian company with a $1 million contract to rebuild oil fields in the US. We 'invaded' their North Sydney office and glued plastic soldiers to the furniture, leaving a reminder of the military nature of their work

KBR - A subsidiary of Halliburton, the single most significant corporation in the US war industry, First Mutiny organised a fake-blood splatterfest outside their office tower. Later 'Rich People 4 Global War' held a 'surprise party' to 'celebrate' Halliburton's contribution to the successful melding of military and corporate interests

ANZ - Has bought into the Iraqi Trade Bank, an alliance of foreign-based banks. After we targeted ANZ branches in the city, they cancelled a planned stall at Sydney Uni Orientation week because of a fear of further protest.

Mutiny and subplot

With the big Forbes hoe-down coming to town, Mutiny decided that it would be a perfect time to try and get as many people as possible together to talk, workshop, and discuss ideas that are relevant not just for the anti-war movement, but anti-capitalists in general. While we are still committed to carrying out direct action against all the Forbes cronies, we thought our efforts would be best used in facilitating a gathering that would hopefully be more productive than just the usual spectacle of fighting the cops.

So that's how subplot was born. While Mutiny, and a few others, may have been there to nurture subplot in to what it has become, it is important that everyone has some input into the convergence. So please come with your ideas and your comments, your energy and your experiences, and most of all a willingness to do some serious subplotting.

dangerous d. for the mutiny collective.

A flyer produced by some members of Mutiny & others, & distributed at a rally after the racist violence in Cronulla in December 2005.

flag burning

We burn the flag to challenge Australian nationalism and its symbols.

The racist violence at Cronulla last week was a more open display of the racism that has long been part of Australia.

This doesn't mean that most people within these borders are racist. But racism, violence and fear of difference are fundamental to the structures of the state and the idea of 'Australia'.

Australian nationalism is based around the idea that white Australians have the right to choose who they/we accept and tolerate – or violently reject.

Liberal & Labor, politicians hoping for power imagine a racist public and present it with racialised figures of fear: 'boat people', 'Muslim terrorists', 'ethnic gangs', uncontrollable others. Crime is presented as an ethnic problem, and ethnicity is treated as a crime.

This flag is a symbol of the violent history of colonialism and the genocide of Indigenous people on which this nation was founded.

To confront racism, we must confront its history and its uses.

Published in *Mutiny*

zine #7, October 2006

(action)

Boeing Office Occupation
28 September 2006

"Now!", dumping her disguise as a flower delivery person, a member of our collective called us out of our huddle in the elevator.

Once inside we explored the space scattering and super-gluing reminders of war all around. We challenged the staff when they told us that they take care of "mostly" civilian flights, that they were "far removed" from all the bloody killing. We told them that that's exactly why we were there - to remind them of the part they play in mass death.

The security guard stood idly around while we wondered and tinkered, challenged and disobeyed. One of the bosses couldn't handle his orders being ignored and grabbed one of us by the arm, a moment later re-thinking and letting go in angry frustration. We sprinkled bombs on his frowning head. Other staff members were a little more levelheaded.

After about half an hour of disruption two cops arrived and did a great good cop/bad cop routine. The "good" one (if there is such a thing) "aksed" us to leave continued to very nervously stutter ill constructed sentences and muddled words – that was quite delightful. The "bad" cop (is there any other type?) did a big macho performance and refused to show us his badge for a while. This stalling was fine by us because staling was our plan. Finally, when the uniformed cops arrived, and stalling time began to edge towards "cuff em'" time, we decided to leave. We met up with our comrades and their banner downstairs and handed out some propaganda before dispersing away or to other actions.

Angry Nerd

(parallel universe action)

On September 28th, thirteen ratbags dressed respectable invaded the offices of Boeing armed with a bunch of flowers, red glitter, plastic soldiers and planes, paper bombs and propaganda. Inspired by the hope of disrupting the business of a $35 billion a year war profiteer, Mutiny distributed flyers outlining the Boeing's weapons manufacture and research statistics, and their demands that the company: 1) stop producing weapons; 2) donate ongoingly to Palestinan Refugee organisations; and 3) disclose information about their development of smart bombs.

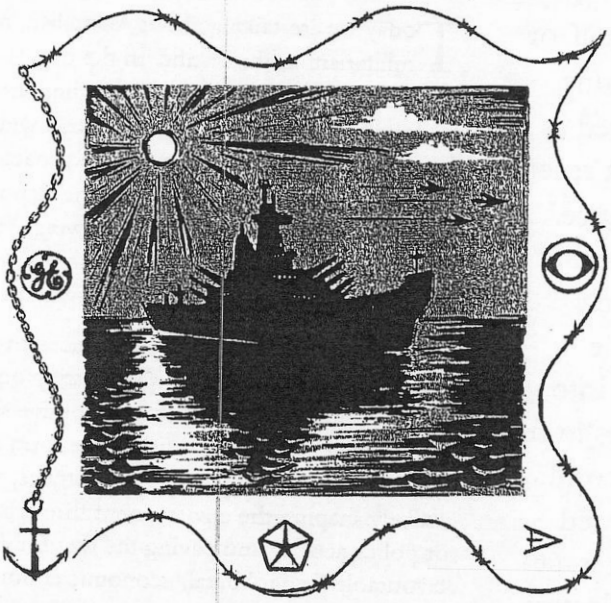
The six or seven workers in the office at the time read the propaganda and immediately seized the means of production, dismantaling the hierarchy in Boeing factories, and the factory workers - collectively organised – began making weapons to arm the civilians of Palestine to liberate their land and minds from Israeli occupation. It was, after all, the anniversary of the second Intifada.

When, half an hour into the office occupation, the filth - both plain-clothed and uniformed - arrived, a sprawling war in which plastic bullets tore plastic flesh from plastic bone broke out. The carpet would never recover from the environmental damage of glitter and superglue.

Was it the infectious giggle of wanna-be superheroes or the toxic fumes from the glue that caused the cops to epiphany right there and then? No one will know for sure, but the streets are now safer as the state crumbled-mercenary upholders of the hierarchy saw their mates as cogs, stopped turning, grew rusty, fell out of the machine.

AIDED & RAIDED

Australian imperialism in the Pacific



Kate Wheen (Aidwatch)

on the politics of Australian aid money

Tim Anderson (UTS)

on recent events in East Timor

Mutiny

on what this has to do with anti-war activism here

Thursday April 26

6 pm UTS Tower
(look for signs to room)

BUILDING 2
LEVEL 7 room 110

mutineers@graffiti.net

Aided & Raided: Australian

This is the first half of a speech the Mutiny collective prepared as a presentation to a recent anti-war conference. It was an exercise in writing collectively and sharing some of our research into Australian affairs in the Pacific. The second half will be printed in an upcoming issue. The Mutiny collective meets regularly; contact us through the address in the zine if you're interested.

Published in *Mutiny*

zine #12, March 2007

Today we are talking about Australian imperialism and militarism in the Pacific. In the details of Australia's role in the Pacific lie the most revealing instances of how the 'war on terror' has become a much wider justification for a shift from 'defence' to a more proactive and aggressive form of 'security'. If the Labor party get to power, Rudd has talked of withdrawing troops from Iraq- in order to concentrate forces in the Pacific region. This would not be a victory for the anti-war movement.

This shift has important consequences, in that defence refers to maintaining some pre-existing order, whereas security supposedly justifies pre-emptive strikes and preventative wars to establish some form of 'order', or a false form of 'democracy'. Furthermore, security requires actively shaping the environment through military and/ or police activity and paving the way for creating more favourable (ie neoliberal) economic conditions.

The rhetoric of 'failed states' and 'nation-building' is an attempt to justify pre-emptive military and/or police invasions – all under the guise of establishing some form of 'order' in the Pacific. Sound familiar? The 'failed state' and 'security' rhetoric that is being employed by the Australian government to describe and justify its 'humanitarian interventions' in the Pacific, is indeed, the very same imperialist rhetoric that the US is using in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more broadly, the war on terror.

Australia's 2003 decision to lead a regional intervention into the Solomon Islands marked a dramatic change in Australian policy, towards the Solomons in particular and more generally the Pacific Islands region. The intervention demonstrates Australia's willingness to play a more assertive role in the domestic affairs of island countries, reflecting the much more fundamental change in global security policies following September 11, 2001.

The 2003 intervention into the Solomons was in the form of the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands [RAMSI] a mission that emphasised a blurring between the internal and external in Australia's

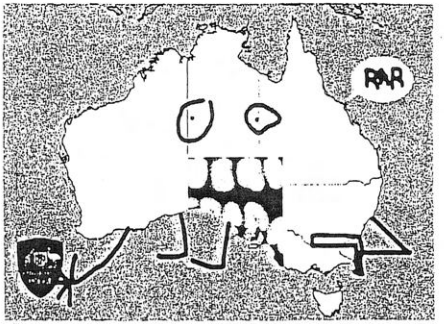
defence and security policies. The deployment of Australian police to the Solomons under RAMSI in turn suggested a blurring of lines between military occupation – more typically viewed as an act of imperialist aggression – and domestic policing. However the role of the police in the Solomons under RAMSI is definitely closer to that of an occupying force – all Australian Federal Police officers there are immune to prosecution under Solomons' law whether on or off duty.

Whilst these policies reek of colonialism, many argue that whilst there are obvious efforts at social and economic control taking place, what we are witnessing is still very different to "proper" or "formal" colonialism – the kind of colonialism that involves a population moving in and taking over, like the kind that sees the white domination of Australia. It's undeniable that globalisation has changed the operations of imperialist states. This is due in large part to the resistances mounted by colonised peoples, and also by the changes that economic liberalism has itself wrought. There are also different techniques that are currently used to colonise economies and societies that have only come about with the advent of post-colonialism, such as the use of multilateral debt and bilateral aid as coercive tools.

There is no such thing as a benevolent act of aid giving, at least not within neo-liberalism. There is instead a term that exists to describe Australia's form of aid giving: 'boomerang aid'. For example: of the $250 million spent on Operation Helpim Fren in the Solomon Islands, half goes back to the Australian Federal Police for its operations there. Another $50 million ends up with the Australian, Packer-owned company GRM Interational. GRM has secured its contracts through AusAID and they include a $15 million one for the running of prisons in the Solomons. Further GRM contracts through AusAID directly involve them in the writing of legislation by Solomon Islands' government departments. Here GRM play the role of financial consultants and advisors for government policy.

However, to just write off Australian government policy around aid to the influence of corporate greed is far too simplistic. Australia's aid program in the Pacific exists on the explicit basis of intervention into and management of policy-making government departments – here it is crucial to note that the interim Finance Minister in the Solomon Islands is an Australian. This undermining of national sovereignty is justified by the rhetoric around 'good governance' – a paternalistic and implied accusation from Australia that the people of Pacific nations are not capable of taking care of their own affairs. The reality is that Australia uses rhetoric such as this and that of the 'failed state' to further its own interests.

This is where the neo-liberal need for stability and security to create a suitable environment for investment tie in with the 'War on Terror' and how Australia enacts its aid program. This is most accurately depicted through the example of Papua New Guinea. Here, the 8 largest recipients of AusAID money are all Australian companies. They are engaged in $525m of the total $728m AusAID contracts in PNG. The recently signed Enhanced Cooperation Program (ECP) between the Australian and PNG governments has put further increased ties



on Australia's aid to PNG. A Human Rights Watch report stated that this agreement came about because of concerns that PNG was a weak link in Australia's anti-terrorism strategy. The program was originally scheduled to run from 2004-2009 and to be worth $906m but will likely be extended. One contract that came out of the ECP was a $150m contract to an Australian company ACIL to reform PNG's law and justice sector. An implicit demand in this reform is that PNG takes on an anti-terror stance that suits Australia. As Aidwatch has noted, despite being Australia's largest aid recipient since its independence, the standard of living in PNG has hardly improved. Rather than aid going towards things immediately necessary for the majority of PNG's population, such as medicine and infrastructure development Australian aid there is increasingly tied to its own neo-liberal and colonialist interests. One more example from East Timor: the government sought loans from Australia and the World Bank to assist with a domestic rice farming programme, to reduce the need for imports and lower the cost of this staple food. The loans were refused: money will only be lent for export-oriented agriculture. That is, for cash crops, not for food security.

These policies have been made explicit in the publication "Pacific 2020: Challenges and Opportunities for Growth" in which the Australian government brazenly constructs the island states of the Pacific as "problem children", suggesting that, without Australian intervention, these nations will become infamous "failed states" (thus requiring Australian military intervention – a barely concealed threat). The primary mode of intervention called for within "Pacific 2020" is economic – because in neo-liberal development language economic growth = social well-being and harmony, or, in this case, "prosperity", "security" and "freedom". This involves land reform (changing communal land holdings into free-hold); removal of tariffs and any other barriers to trade; privatisation of government-controlled industries; introduction of free-trade agreements and stronger governance. Just not too strong. And this is where Australia's aid program comes in: at any one time Australia has about 1800 aid contracts worth approximately 1 billion dollars. Most of this is spent in the Pacific, with nearly all projects concentrating on police, prisons, courts and so-called "public sector reform". Australia clearly plans to drag the Pacific states into its neo-liberal web willingly or by force.

It makes more sense then, rather than conceptualising Australia's policies in the Pacific as being distinct from formal colonialism, to recognise the continuum of engagement that exists, where the spectre of the carrot or the stick becomes accordingly more or less pronounced. At one end of the spectrum we have the idea (rather than the reality) of networked liberal democracy at its most benevolent – in the offer of willing inclusion, no-stings-attached; moving through the use of tied aid, through to engagement in Low Intensity Conflicts to full-blown colonialism/war. Australia seems to be occupying a number of these positions, depending on the situation, in order to achieve its end of social and economic control of the Pacific region.

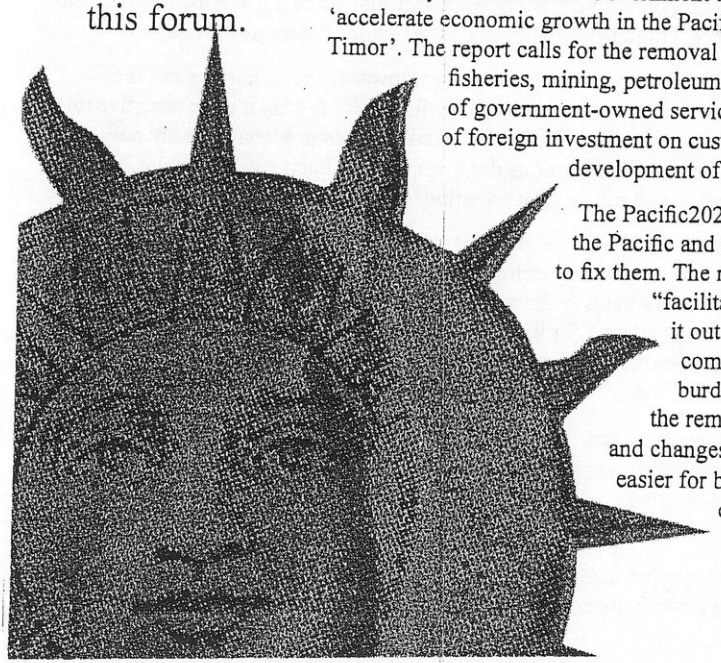
Aided & Raided: More on

This speech was written by Mutiny for the recent forum *Aided & Raided : Australian Imperialism in the Pacific*. Tim Anderson and Kate Wheelen (from AIDWatch) also spoke at this forum.

In 2003, Australia led a regional assistance into the Solomon Islands, and has since been pushing economic and military interventions in the Pacific region. Australia's humanitarian intervention in the Pacific equates to a new face of colonialism that aims at controlling policy, legislation and resources rather than gaining territorial possession – colonialism that aims at governance rather than government.

The Australian government has used the rhetoric of 'failed states' and 'nation-building' as an attempt to justify pre-emptive military and/or police invasions. These have been established through the publication and implementation of the 'Pacific2020' document. The 'failed state' and 'security' rhetoric that is being employed by the Australian government to describe and justify its 'humanitarian interventions' in the Pacific, is indeed, the very same imperialist rhetoric that the US is using in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more broadly, the current global state known as the 'war on terror'. 'The Pacific2020- Challenges and Opportunities for Growth' makes explicit policies and calls for changes in legislation in which the Australian government brazenly constructs the island states of the Pacific as "problem children", suggesting that, without Australian intervention, these nations will become infamous "failed states" (thus requiring Australian military intervention).

This discourse can be recognised in the Pacific2020 – a 15-year plan released by the Australian Government to 'help' Pacific countries to 'accelerate economic growth in the Pacific, Papua New Guinea and East Timor'. The report calls for the removal of government barriers in the fisheries, mining, petroleum and agricultural sectors, the sale of government-owned service providers and the facilitation of foreign investment on customary-owned land, including the development of cash crops for export.



The Pacific2020 lists various social problems in the Pacific and argues for market reforms in order to fix them. The report insists that government has to "facilitate business, [and] not to crowd it out by being directly involved in commercial activities or by imposing burdensome regulations." It calls for the removal of high taxes and regulations and changes to the legal system to make it easier for business to recover debt and enforce contracts.

Potentially one of the most explosive social and political

issues in the report is the reform of the system of communal land titles. The vast majority of people in the Pacific live a semi-subsistence existence in their traditional villages, acknowledged by the constitutions of these countries, which, as far as investors are concerned, is an intolerable barrier to business activity. In PNG and Vanuatu, for example, 97 percent of the land is held under customary title. Individuals do not own land and cannot sell it, but rather have rights to use land because of their birth into, or adoption by, a kinship group. Land reform legislation will inevitably lead to forcing more people to turn to towns joining the unemployed in the shantytowns and provide private enterprise with an abundant source of cheap labour.

The Australian government is not backing away as it attempts to foist a full-blown capitalist economy on the island nations. Downer announced the allocation of $22.5 million for two programs aimed specifically at encouraging private sector development in the Pacific and East Timor, as well as $10 million for the Asian Development Bank's proposal for a "Private Sector Development Initiative in the Pacific and East Timor". Downer said it will "promote enterprise, investment and growth by addressing the impediments to private sector development" these impediments being access to land for commercial agriculture, tourism, mining, fishing and forestry.

The report also stresses the need for 'law and order'; Downer says that "better governance, infrastructure and regional co-operation is needed for all Pacific Island countries, or they'll follow the Solomon Islands into crime, violence and instability."

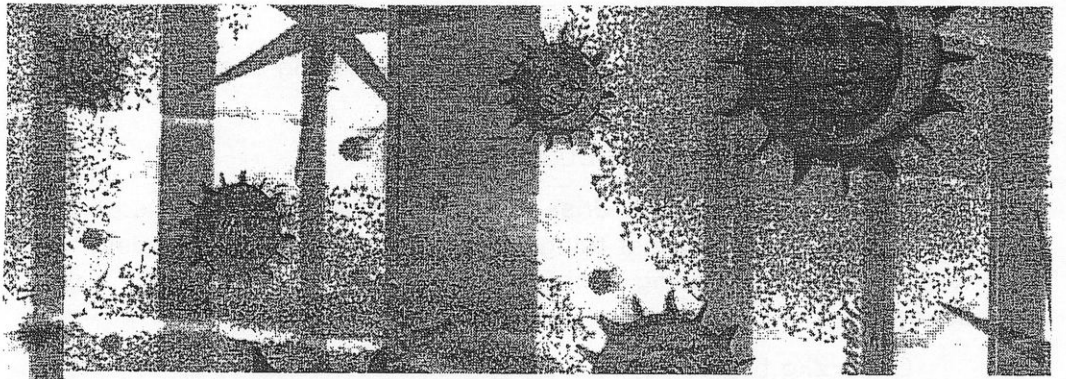
Under the pretext that the Solomon Islands was a "failed state" Australia led a regional intervention to supposedly establish order in the region and thus create favorable neo-liberal economic conditions. Howard installed an Australian official as head of the forum's secretariat, as well as Australian police and officials in top positions in PNG, Fiji and Vanuatu despite protests. Since 2004, Australia has held the positions of Secretary of Finance, Director of Police and other senior positions in Nauru.

This intervention marked a dramatic change in Australian policy, towards the Solomons and the Pacific region. Such an intervention demonstrates Australia's willingness to play a more assertive role in the domestic affairs of island countries, reflecting fundamental changes in global security policies following September 11, 2001. If Pacific island nations don't implement Pacific2020 policies, they risk being labelled 'failed states' and overt military interventions similar to that of the Solomons.

Australian use of military force in the Pacific is one example of how, in the current global state of war, war and military activity are used to violently enforce and impose economic programs that pave the way for the immense transfers of wealth away from areas such as the Pacific. Australia's actions constitute the global state of war, which allows for the expansion of capital. This newest phase of capitalist expansionism requires the destruction of any economic agenda not subordinated to the logic of accumulation.

The situation in so many Pacific countries from Timor to PNG to Fiji to the Solomon's encapsulates the many stages of this type of imperialism such as economic coercion through restricted aid and trade agreements to occupation and military operations. The nuances of each country's situation and how Australia's policy to each does vary suggests the adaptiveness of this sort of imperialist response.

While the most war-like, militaristic approaches are the ones that will garner the most attention, Australia's engagement with the Pacific in its entirety is exploitative. As the post- 9/11 culture of pre-



emptive 'security' allows what is essentially invasion and occupation in the Solomons to be called 'policing' and the application of 'good governance', we should ensure that we aren't fooled by this trick of language. Rather we should resist this as part of any struggle against war and militarism. Further to this we should also be aware that the sort of economic and government policy being forced onto these countries by Australia have their very own brutal consequences for the population in terms of lost land and livelihood.

There is widespread resistance to such consequences throughout the Pacific. Violent opposition to economic restructuring occurred in PNG in 1995 when massive protests were staged against an IMF/ World Bank-proposed Land Mobilisation Program aimed at 'freeing up' land and providing security of tenure or property rights.

Last November in Tonga there were riots against the refusal of the Tongan monarchy and parliament to address the social impacts of Tonga's restructuring of its' economy. A state of emergency has been in place in Tonga since the November riots – pro-democracy media outlets have been shut down. There has been opposition for years against privatisation, the introduction of a consumption tax and other reforms, including a massive strike by public servants in 2005. One response to what is likely to be only increased resistance throughout the Pacific has been from Kevin Rudd, who has suggested withdrawing Australian troops from Iraq so that they can be deployed in the Pacific.

By examining how this security culture and militarism exist beyond Iraq we also place our own lives within it rather than being somehow separate. And certainly Australian militarism exists internally as well as externally. The Terrorism Investigation Unit and the Public Order and Riot Squad are relatively new creations, a solid outcome of the move towards a more militarised policing justified under the same rhetoric of 'terrorism', 'security' and 'stability'.

Also, the Redfern redevelopment sees such policing firmly intersect with a good old neo-liberal land grab. While different because of its unique proximity to the CBD, there are also some similarities between this forced 'development' of community-owned land with the theft of communal land throughout Pacific nations such as in Vanuatu and New Caledonia. Additionally, the privatisation of public services such as education here are being matched or exceeded in places like Fiji.

People resisting imperialism, militarism and neo-liberalism in the Pacific are geographically our closest comrades and there is potential for ongoing alliances to be built. One solid example: Fijian civil servants voted to strike in March 2007 against the military junta's proposed 5 percent pay cut and elimination of thousands of public sector jobs through the reduction of the retirement age from 60 to 55. It's vital that we in Australia think about these issues and act in solidarity with the struggles of our neighbours – not because of moral concern about what 'our' government is doing to other people, but because they're our struggles too.

BONUS - Just when you though there was nothing useful in this collection!

FAKE BLOOD RECIPE!!!

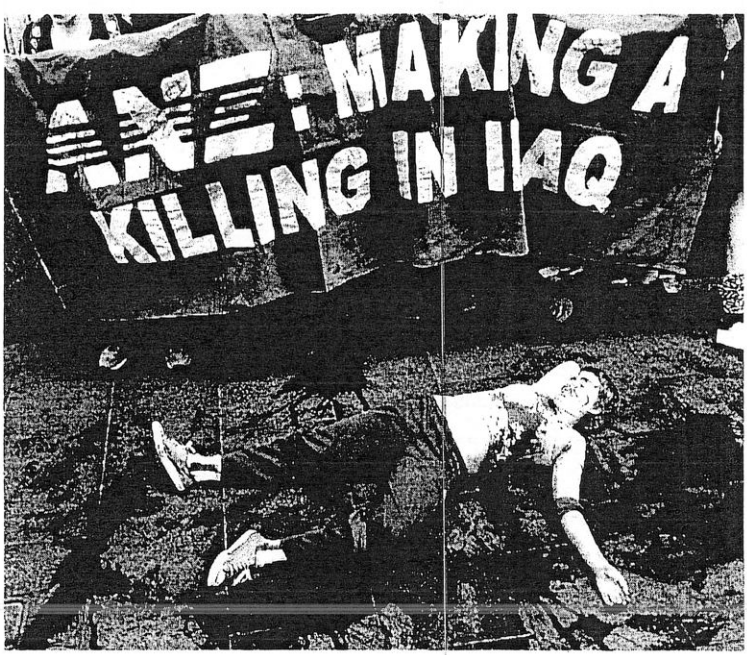
This is sticky as all hell, & dries to a pink sugar crust, but it's non toxic, washes out of most things, & was the easiest & cheapest way we found of making bright, glistening fake blood to use in actions:

Get a 2kg bag of sugar & a bucket of hot water

Make a sugar syrup by dissolving as much of the sugar you can in the water - keep pouring it in & stirring until no more will dissolve. Put in half a bottle of red food colouring & a drop of blue. (Just a drop, else it will be purple).

Let it cool a bit & pour into drink bottles. It will probably form some crystals at the bottom of the bucket, so try to leave them there.

Get your friends to lie on the ground then pour it over them dramatically.



Vigil in solidarity with Russian anarchist murdered by fascists.

August 2nd, 9.30 am, Russian Consulate: 7-9 Fullerton Street Woollahra, Sydney (meet 9.15am, Edgecliff station)

In the early morning of 21st July, neo-nazis launched a vicious and unprovoked attack on an anti-nuclear protest camp in Angarsk, Siberia, Russia. The nazis violently attacked activists in their sleeping bags and tents with iron rods, knives and air pressure guns. 21 year old Ilya Borodaenko suffered a head-fracture during the attack and later died in hospital from his injuries. At least nine others have been reported to be seriously injured, one of which has had both their legs broken.

The local authorities first tried to deny that there was any political motive in the attack, blaming it on 'hooligans.' They later cast doubt on the victims' environmental credentials, refusing to understand that ecological politics and opposition to fascism are connected.

This violent attack from neo-fascists was not an isolated event. Violence against foreigners and activists occurs all too commonly in Russia, unchecked and sometimes supported by state authorities.

The planned Angarsk uranium enrichment centre, which the camp was in protest against, is a pet project of president Putin, who will be in Sydney for the APEC meeting in September.

We offer solidarity and condolences to camp organisers – Ecological Wave of Baikal, Autonomous Action, and Rainbow Keepers, and to the friends, family and comrades of all those attacked by fascists.

For more on the camp and the attack:
http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2007/07/376699.html

An open letter from Mutiny to people thinking about organising protests at APEC

May 2007

Some people have said that they don't want APEC to be another G20. Neither do we. We don't want to see 'protest organisers' publicly denouncing other protesters. We don't want to see groups responding to a climate of police aggression by distancing themselves from those being targeted. We don't want to see groups so busy scrambling for crumbs of media 'legitimacy' that they willingly play into media hysteria about 'violence' and false and dangerous dichotomies between 'good' and 'bad' protesters. --- We believe that in this climate it would be all too easy for any of us to find ourselves classed as 'bad protesters'. --- So we're concerned to hear that the Sydney Stop Bush Coalition has decided to produce posters saying 'join the peaceful protest.'

This text itself is minor, but it suggests worrying tendencies (which are not confined to a particular group.) To insist on 'peaceful protest' seems to be either naïve or dangerously cynical – and it aligns with the repression of dissent.

It's naïve if anyone who was at the recent demonstrations against Cheney didn't learn from them. No protester went there planning 'violence' – but the assembly decided to defy police and tried to push through police lines. This choice meant that it was not a 'peaceful protest' by many definitions (and certainly not by that of the corporate media.) Yet, the course of action taken was how the group felt it had to be done. To try to march, people chose to confront the police – and it was a confrontation in which many of us suffered violence and arrest.

The next day was equally instructive: an entirely passive crowd was terrorised by police snatch squads making utterly unfounded arrests. If people believe that negotiating with police will ensure a 'peaceful protest' then they don't seem to be living in the same city as us.

Obviously it's important to encourage large-scale defiance in which people can feel safe and brave whatever their level of involvement. The cops are clearly trying to make anyone who might think about protesting feel scared and we have to fight that. But insisting on the image of 'peaceful protest' only amplifies the wedge politics of the police and media: and it doesn't stop police violence. It seems downright irresponsible to promise – or demand - peace. Obedience will not make us safer.

In this context, it seems likely that, whatever the desire of the organisers, people will choose to attend the protest prepared for self-defence or other disobedient actions. Is the call for 'peaceful protest' an attempt by the small group producing the poster to say that such tactics and politics are not welcome at the protest? Of course anyone taking any action must take responsibility for it and the effects they might have on others.

However, those who call a protest are not the boss or police of everyone who attends and cannot assume to control it. Is this group a coalition through which diverse events can be organised, or is it a collective planning a single march? (We assume it's the former; if not there is clearly a need for a broader group as well.)

If any groups were planning confrontational actions it would of course be essential that they worked with respect alongside others so that those who did not want to be involved wouldn't be drawn in against their will, and so that other actions were not interfered with. While communication was imperfect, this seemed to be fairly well done at the G20 – many people went on a march and went home, while those who overturned barricades etc were streets away. It's important to continue to improve communication, not shut it down.

Our fear is that an assertion made now that the protests will be explicitly 'peaceful' will shut down the discussions that need to be had; that people will argue only that the protests should be 'peaceful' instead of accepting that people will organise in diverse ways; that a small group will attempt to define what is 'legitimate' for the entire protest rather than working to ensure mutual autonomy, safety and effectiveness.

This letter was not written because we're planning so-called 'violent protest' or know of some secret plans. We have no idea. Preparing for APEC protests has not been a priority for us as a group.

The police preparations seem to strengthen the arguments against summit protest, especially doubts about the value of challenging the state on their terrain and when they are most prepared. On the other hand, they also strengthen feeligs that it is important to defy police attempts to frighten us. This ambivalence is why we haven't been at meetings making these arguments; we hope this will as reason to dismiss our thoughts. We write in the hope that we or groups with politics similar to ours would be able to organise for APEC alongside others – in the hope that a diversity of tactics will be possible and the spaces for discussion and action will not be shut down.

In solidarity,
The Mutiny collective
(mutineers@graffiti.net)

Anarchists ready for APEC violence

Shaun Davies, ninemsn, Mon Jun 4 2007

An anarchist group linked to violence at last year's G20 summit has rejected the idea of "peaceful protests" at September's APEC summit in Sydney.

The group, called Mutiny, has reportedly convinced the group organising the main APEC protest, the Stop Bush Coalition, to remove a reference to "peaceful protest" from its advertising materials.

Organisers of the G20 protests in November last year identified Mutiny members as perpetrators of violence at the summit, along with another anarchist group, Arterial Bloc.

Sydney's streets will be locked down and police given increased powers during September's APEC summit, which will be attended by world leaders including George Bush and Vladimir Putin.

The Stop Bush Coalition has organised a major APEC protest for September 8, which thousands of people are expected to attend.

Mutiny has issued an open letter that opposes billing the protest as "peaceful". "To insist on a 'peaceful protest' seems to be either naive or dangerously cynical — and it aligns with the repression of dissent," the letter says.

The letter blames police for violence at G20, saying protesters there were "terrorised" by "unfounded arrests". It argues for a "diversity of tactics" at APEC, which could include violent action.

"Our fear is that an assertion made now that the protests will be explicitly 'peaceful' will shut down the discussions that need to be had; that people will argue only that the protests should be 'peaceful' instead of accepting that people will organise in diverse ways," the letter says.

The group says it has not yet planned violent protests for APEC, but has not ruled out organising such actions at a later date.

"We write in the hope that we or groups with politics similar to ours would be able to organise for APEC alongside others, in the hope that a diversity of tactics will be possible," the group's letter says.

A report in radical newspaper *Green Left Weekly* says Mutiny won a motion at a meeting of the Stop Bush Coalition to remove the words "peaceful protest" from advertising material.

Stop Bush Coalition media spokesman Alex Bainbridge would not comment on Mutiny's involvement in his group's planning meetings.

He said the Stop Bush Coalition was still planning a peaceful protest.

"We are worried if anything about the possibility of violence from police," Mr Bainbridge said.

"It's important that people come out on the streets and make their views heard."

He could not say if overseas protesters were planning to come to Australia for APEC, or what specific measures the group would take to prevent violent groups from hijacking the protests.

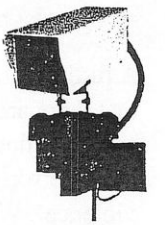
Eleven people were arrested at the G20 protests in September last year, after rioters in white hooded suits and bandanas smashed a police car and injured a number of officers. Police officers have since been accused of responding to the protesters with excessive force.

Organisers of the G20 protest told the media that members of Mutiny and Arterial Bloc were responsible for the violence.

Violent protests have also erupted at this week's G8 summit in Germany, where masked rioters throwing rocks and beer bottles injured almost 150 police.

PEACEFUL PROTEST IN A POLICE STATE

By the Mutiny Collective



It is clear that APEC has become a major focus for many in the left, whether or not we have explicitly intended for this to be so. We write this letter not to cynically palm-off the work that other groups are doing, but to critically engage with the nature of the organising of anti-APEC protests. We think that the laws created to coincide with the summit, and our responses to them have greater and longer lasting implications than just for the day(s) of protest.

In a country that seems completely enthralled by the fear that the State is creating, we see the responses to the extended police powers for APEC as equally or more important than the fact that George Bush is coming to town. APEC is just a point in time in capitalism, and the laws that have been enacted to coincide with the summit are just a small part of the wider move towards a greater policed state. Appeals to the state and police to tolerate protest because it is integral to the functioning of democracy are damaging. They play into the hands of a false democracy where both parties outbid each other on who can give the police more powers. It plays into their hands because it is based on an assumption that if we agree to behave in a certain way - to be 'good' protesters – then the state should be accepting of our dissent.

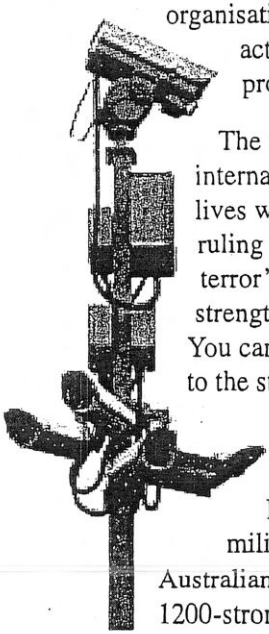
It is ludicrous for anti-APEC organising groups to be suggesting to the corporate media that it is protesters' responsibility to create an atmosphere of peace, when 5000 police and 1500 troops will ensure there is an atmosphere of fear and tension, however we behave. This kind of language constructs the relationship between protestors and police as completely upside down. It is now the responsibility of protestors rather than the police to act 'peacefully' and 'responsibly'- in other words, to merely be a spectacle of dissent that legitimises the state's claim that it 'respects the right to protest'. This kind of language also cements the boundaries of debate that is taking place in the media about APEC. In a time when the media is frequently asking protest groups for a response to the policing of APEC, rather than actually taking the opportunity to put forth a radical critique of capitalism and the state, anti-APEC organising groups use language which allows the debate to be skewed in the direction where even the Chief Executive of the NSW Business Chamber can weigh in on the debate about peaceful protest: *"There is a clear responsibility for groups who decide to protest to act peacefully and lawfully. The wider community respects the right to protest and equally respects the rights of people and businesses to go about their day without interference."* (Smh 2/8)

Under such a protestor/state contract, protestors are expected to submit to the police's authority on where protest can occur and who can participate. This legitimises the

police's state-appointed role as the city's urban planning agency- policing our bodies' ability to exist in what is supposed to be public space. This is the danger of making concessions to the police during APEC in exchange for permission to even be present as a protest body. This contract has no sunset clause.

A further effect of such negotiations with the state is the credibility given to the idea that there are two different orders of dissent- one legitimate and one not. While groups are appealing to police and security agencies to be less violent, ASIO is joining the terms terrorism and 'violent' protest under the same banner of 'politically motivated violence'. While this neat linguistic manoeuvre by ASIO is a development to be worried about (after all, how often is a protest *not* deemed as 'violent' by police and the media?), it is crucial to recognise its position on a continuum of increasing state violence. The antics of the state and police in the lead-up to APEC should not be unexpected and is in no way an end point in terms of repression. Those blaming such repression on any single event, such as the actions of Arterial Bloc at the G20 last year are either playing a cynical, political game or are historically ignorant.

What we have here is an increasingly paranoid, security state punching at shadows in its never-ending 'war on terror'. The cycle of fear and repression is self-perpetuating, as increased surveillance provides more pieces of 'intelligence' that work to fuel further scare campaigns and therefore arm the security agencies with even more power. The case of the Barwon 13 – a group of Muslim men held in maximum security under anti-terror laws, charged, not with planning a terrorist act – neither plans nor means were found – but with belonging to an unspecified, unnamed and unlisted terrorist organisation is indicative. It suits the government for fear to control our actions so closely. It means we turn to its 'benevolent' power to protect us.



The policing of our lives is everywhere and we are also meant to internalise it more than ever. It is pointless fighting such attacks on our lives within the context of the legal system. The law is a tool of the ruling class for maintaining their hegemony. The fear over 'the war on terror' created by the government and the media allows for the strengthening of the law and therefore for the tighter control of society. You cannot separate the law from this fear. Just as we can't appeal to the state to 'create a little less fear please', we can't appeal to the government to not create and enforce laws like the new APEC laws.

In practical terms we have seen the police become increasingly militarised, while the military take on more policing duties. The Australian Federal Police have recently announced the formation of a 1200-strong paramilitary wing called the International Deployment

Group (IDG). They will be equipped with weapons and armoured personnel carriers, which will allow them to be deployed alongside the military. While the police are acting as the enforcers of Australian imperialism in the Pacific, the military are also blurring boundaries by re-invading Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory under the guise of protecting children. FA-18 fighter jets, Navy ships, and 1500 ADF soldiers will patrol the city during APEC, manning checkpoints, conducting vehicle and venue searches, and responding to any calls for assistance from police. Paramilitary arms of the Police, fighting for Imperial control of other nations, the military invading communities, patrolling city streets, skies and waterways: this is not a state of peace. This is a state of war. Any of us who are against the War on Terror are by the same extension against the state of war. We are the opponents of a highly policed state whose police and military are interchangeable, a state which in order to function relies on the threat of, or actual, military punishment. If we are against this state, then the state is against us, backed up by all its military might.

So where does this leave those of us preparing to protest at APEC? APEC and other summit protests will not, on their own, create our desired alternatives. Yet confronting the state allows us to gather our collective strength. It provides a space for us to listen and communicate with each other, to nurture our ideas and feelings in ways that allows us to realise our power and our strengths. Importantly, we should seek to address our fear and uncertainty about resistance in this climate of heightened police repression. What we need to be doing is taking care of ourselves and each other, so that our fear and paranoia does not paralyse us – because that exactly the result that the state wishes to achieve.

When organizing for APEC and struggles beyond we need to look toward what we can gain from these moments of resistance and how they can build upon our strength. For these confrontations, are not singular acts of resistance, but spaces to educate and be educated. Times where we can seek to develop our ability to communicate, our level of adaptability, and our knowledge and willingness to listen and change.

More than ever, there is a need to broaden militancy: to neither retreat into separate, secret groups nor to retreat into compliance. Being safe and successful in our defiance will rely on strength of numbers, however we choose to act – but people must be invited honestly. This means not blaming the world's problems on one evil man from far away. And it means not pretending that it is our responsibility to ensure a peaceful protest in a police state – or that it is even possible for us to do so. It also means being honest about fear. Fear is not just something we defy – it is something we feel. We are scared, but together we can be brave.

F.L.A.R.E in the void

for liberation autonomy resistance exodus

4th sept – 9th sept 2007

F.L.A.R.E in the Void is a convergence happening in Sydney from Sept 4th – Sept 9th. The convergence aims to bring together some of the countless stories, experiences and lessons of struggle and resistance happening in Australia and across the world, and to assist in continued planning and communication. We know that everyone is struggling in their own ways: what we want is to share these experiences.

The struggle for liberation involves an array of strategies of resistance and subversion. We hope that the conference will be able to provide a glimpse of the many struggles that we carry out against global capital, everyday. We also think it is important to have dialogue around these struggles and we hope that the conference will provide a space for this. Please, if you are interested, contact us and hold a workshop during the conference. Workshops are not limited to any specific formula or topic: anything that can help to inform the betterment of our lives and struggles is a brilliant idea.

We are also looking for submissions to the FLARE in the Void reader. Submissions are NOT simply limited to academic styles of writing. Level of skill of articulation, or choice of style of writing, should not limit possibilities of contributions to the reader. Pictures would also be nice. Submit what you know, what you doubt, what you question and what you think.

Email flare_in_the_void@graffiti.net with articles, pictures, photos or whatever else

to get on the organising list send an email to summitbusters@lists.riseup.net with a wee explanation about who ya are [no cops allowed!!]

blog space- flareinthevoid.wordpress.com

F.L.A.R.E in the void

for liberation autonomy resistance exodus

4th sept – 9th sept 2007

blog space- flareinthevoid.wordpress.com

If we look, we can see the power of collective struggle across the globe. Yet we also witness war and oppression, and the power of the ruling class can seem greater than ever. This callout is an invitation to explore and confront this situation. While the functionaries of capital and the state meet in Sydney this year for the APEC conference, to discuss how to further their neoliberal assault on the earth and our lives, we too will meet, to discuss and organise our continuing struggle against them, and for liberation and a world we make together.

This is an open invitation for people to put on workshops, provide new ideas and help organise in the lead up to and during the convergence. We know that everyone is struggling in their own way: what we want is to share these experiences.

While the convergence might also be a space to plan actions that coincide with the APEC meeting, that's not all it can be. We do not wish to act solely in response to the meetings of the bosses, but to build our own bases of power.

We want to bring together our experiences of resistance and struggle, individual and collective, from daily life, political campaigns and anywhere else.

The struggle for liberation involves an array of strategies of resistance and subversion: from conversations to liberating space, from cooking together to jamming the circuitry of capital at work, from actions in the street to calling each other on our shit.

It sometimes seems that our various struggles are just small cracks in the global capitalist system, but we can think about how these cracks meet up to form a network of global resistance, a network that has power. This is why it's important to meet and to talk about our daily struggles against global capital, to have an opportunity to listen to each other and teach each other.

We want to take time to think about the weaknesses as well as the strengths of what we do. We want to celebrate the ways we are powerful and the times we are able to combat the repressive power of capital.

We want to see an open and inclusive space with room for commonality and difference, in which solidarity – and a culture of care and love – can grow.

September in Sydney will see a climate of heightened police repression, the continuation of the fear politics that are so central to the current global state of war. The intensification of state repression has real effects on our daily lives, on how we feel and how we think about resistance. We have to find ways to support each other, so we can recognise our fears but continue to struggle.

The convergence is a space of both exodus and resistance. *Exodus* because we are not only refusing the imposition of capitalist social relations, but also creating alternatives through the ways we refuse; and *resistance* because we are not simply retreating from a grim reality but confronting the machinery behind it.

F.L.A.R.E in the void

for liberation autonomy resistance exodus

Convergence

4th sept - 9th sept 2007

F.L.A.R.E in the void is a convergence happening in Sydney. Coinciding with A P E C, This convergence aims to bring together some of the countless stories, experiences and lessons of struggle and resistance in Australia and across the world, and to assist in continued planning and communication. We know that everyone is struggling in their own ways; what we want is to share those experiences.

Welcome to country by Jenny Munroe

'All in' discussions "global state of war"

Workshops [wed and fri]-

Work, Dignity & Social Change

Community Response To Sexuall Assault/ Consent

State of Peace & War

Direct Action Training

Sex Worker Activism

Trauma Support

+ more tba.....

for info call :
0434 585 264

email us for info/ if you want to do workshops/to be added to the elist
flare_in_the_void@graffiti.net

or go to BlackRose 22 Enmore rd , newtown [100m from newtown train station]
will be open 12-5pm tue4th and wed5th

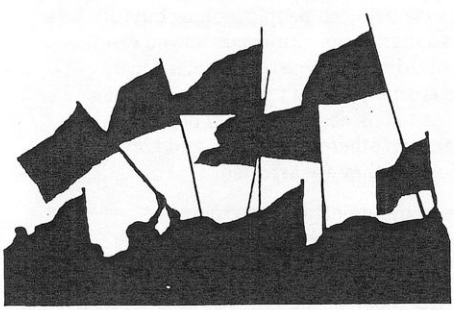
F.L.A.R.E in the void Reader Launch Fundraiser [for F i t v]
6:30pm @ BlackRose anarchist bookshop and library
22 Enmore rd
29th August

RESISTING & DISRUPTING THE VIOLENCE OF APEC: A FORUM ON MASS DIRECT ACTION

Mutiny helped organise this meeting but the text came from some comrades in Melbourne. We thought it was worth preserving anyway.

In Australia, the policies of APEC have resulted in the privatisation and degradation of public transport, low wages, de-unionisation of workplaces, high cost housing, an elitist education system, increased military funding at the expense of education & health, & the lack of prevention of climate change.

These policies create situations where people have a right to respond with anger. Governments can only maintain the legitimacy of such policies by maintaining an image of social control and demonising protest by committing millions of taxpayers' dollars to surveillance, repression and violence. The APEC meeting is being used to justify police-state laws designed to intimidate potential protesters. At the same time, police & the military are being sent into Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory to enforce new racist laws. Our lives & our world are increasingly militarised & policed: we are supposed to fearfully obey.



But we are fighting for a better world. With shared intent, good communication and collective organisation, we can participate in mass direct action at APEC that is both meaningful and strategic. We can disrupt their meeting by disrupting their control of the space. This can send a strong message against the poverty and violence imposed by APEC's policies. We can make it known that we don't agree and we are not going to live in fear.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 22 6.30 PM

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY – TOWER BUILDING

sharedintent@gmail.com

In Affinity, Beyond Isolation

Although the idea of protest is meant to always be empowering, the opposite can also be true – a large protest can be intimidating and isolating. If you are there by yourself, or even with friends, it is possible to feel more like a spectator than a participant. Our suggestion for the APEC protest is simple, to get together with friends or other people who want to do something similar to you and organise beforehand to be there together as an affinity group with some idea of how you want to participate rather than just spectate. If you don't know anyone else going, come to one of the events in the week before such as the FLARE in the Void convergence (Sept 5-7) or the Stop Bush meeting (evening of Sept 7th) where you can meet people and find out what other groups are doing.

An affinity group can be any group of people and your plans don't have to be extraordinary. You may want to dress up similarly and engage in street theatre, paint a banner with your message, carry some flags or engage in particular acts of disobedience and direct action. Having numerous affinity groups at a protest adds to the vibrancy and breaks the sense of routine and conformity, that we've just done it all before. Participating in one is a step to ensuring you don't have to feel alienated as the usual 'leaders' of the protest tell you how to behave. Listening to endless speakers can be dull, think what you might do to make it less so. The same person on a megaphone yelling in your ear can be annoying, so make up your own songs and chants.

An affinity group would generally be about 5 – 15 people. In larger affinity groups it is a good idea to have one or two particular people who you stick close with. It's useful to buddy up with someone of the same gender as you, so you're less likely to get separated if you are arrested. Yes, this is also about safety. We never know exactly how the police will react to a protest, particularly one that involves direct action and disruption. If you intend to partake in tactics of direct action or disruption, affinity groups are very important as you'll need people looking out for you. You might also need to agree to all dress similarly and with masks so you can be anonymous. But if you don't want to be involved in that type of action, it's just as important having people look out for you to ensure you don't get dragged into a situation you don't want to be in. It's a good idea to talk about this stuff before to ensure everyone feels comfortable, knows what each other is able to do and knows if members of the group have any particular needs if they are arrested.

The most important aspect of affinity groups is communication. In-group communication is heaps important at a protest because decisions may have to be made quickly. Have a signal that will bring your group together to have a quick meeting about what to do. Make sure that everyone is able to have their say so that discussion and decisions aren't dominated by a few people. It is important to make a decision that everyone in the group is happy with so that the group doesn't split and people don't get left behind or dragged into something they don't want to do. Opening lines of communication with other groups, even if you don't want to tell them every detail of your plan, creates the possibility of finding others who want to do similar actions. It also means groups with different ideas for type of action can still work together in a spirit of solidarity and respect.

DIY MAYHEM

APEC riot manual revealed as blitz traps tourists

EXCLUSIVE

By JOE HILDEBRAND and MALCOLM FARR

MILITANT APEC protesters are secretly plotting an outbreak of violence for US President George W. Bush's arrival in Sydney tomorrow, distributing a rioter's training manual on how to wear gas masks, confront police and even evade fares. The clandestine anarchist action, six weeks in the making, has been dubbed "FLARE in the void" and is described as an "Anti-APEC counter convergence".

Police are already on edge about security, yesterday clamping down on activity in the CBD — including forcing three German tourists to delete photographs they had of the security fence.

And APEC-related arrests have already begun with the charging of 12 Greenpeace activists who boarded inflatable boats early yesterday to paint "Australia Pushing Export Coal" on the side of a ship in Newcastle Harbour.

The FLARE (For Liberation Autonomy Resistance Exodus) manual, obtained by *The Daily Telegraph*, openly declares an intent to commit violence.

It informs protesters engaging in "direct action" to form small groups of five to 15 people and to wear masks so they cannot be identified.

"It is important to defy police attempts to frighten us," the so-called Mutiny Collective has written in one section.

The manual tells rioters to wear gas masks, goggles, running shoes and full-body clothing to protect from tear gas and capsicum spray. It also advises carrying water and a bandanna soaked in vinegar to combat the effects of pepper spray.

The busloads of interstate activists expected to descend on Sydney are also told how to evade public transport fares, including forcing their way through railway station ticket barriers.

Mr Howard yesterday acknowledged the threats of violence and the response of intrusive security precautions in Sydney's CBD.

But he said if violence occurred people should not blame him or Mr Bush.

"Don't blame the police, don't blame the NSW Government, don't blame any of our [heads of government] guests, don't blame the Federal Government," he said.

"Blame the people who threaten violence."

Mr Howard said the APEC summit was an opportunity, despite the expected clashes, to present a positive image of Australia.

He said the nation's largest city, "undeniably the most beautiful big city in the world", would be seen as a modern, sophisticated, tolerant, multi-racial society.

Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd said violence would be unacceptable and backed a zero-tolerance policy by police towards protests who were not peaceful.

"I would appeal to anyone who is thinking of protesting out there to protest in peaceful terms only," he said.

Police were yesterday viewing anyone who photographed or filmed the fence with suspicion. As well as detaining the tourists, they also forced a Melbourne documentary maker out of the declared zone and arrested a homeless man who had a mobile phone camera.

The Stop Bush Coalition, the umbrella protest group, has claimed its demonstrations will be peaceful.

However it is only taking responsibility for protests on Tuesday evening for Mr Bush's arrival and the main march on Saturday.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

Monday, September 3, 2007

Protesters refuse to rule out violence

Edmund Tadros
and Phillip Coorey

THE organisers of a radical protest group said last night they could not rule out violence at the main rally against the APEC forum this Saturday – and have defended a manual they produced which provided controversial advice to protesters.

The claims emerged yesterday, after the Prime Minister, John Howard, had attacked the integrity of anti-globalisation protesters, saying their hatred of capitalism was hypocritical.

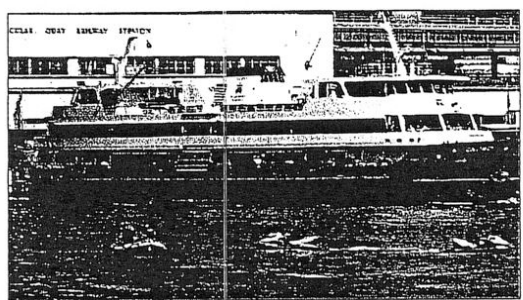
"Most of these people are demonstrating broadly against capitalism and economic growth, they hate it," he said.

"They think economic growth is poison for the poor instead of being a lifeline for the poor."

But the "FLARE in the Void" collective, one of the protest groups, which had been under fire for a manual they produced which tells activists how to disguise themselves during protests, said their work was a harmless "collection of writings".

One of the organisers, Lou Thatcher, 25, said she didn't think the outrage of the police and the Police Minister was genuine.

Neither Ms Thatcher or her fellow FLARE organiser, university student Navin Gill, 21, could understand the concern the manual had caused in this most security conscious of weeks. "[The manual] is clearly being used in a manipulative and false way as part of a fear campaign," said Ms Thatcher.



Sea defence ... police patrol the harbour. Photo: Steven Siewert

She said the collective, which has about 100 members, was holding a series of workshops and meetings in Marrickville from tomorrow to mark their opposition to the APEC summit.

"We can't say what's going to happen on the day, I don't want anyone to get hurt and I don't want anyone to get arrested," she said. "But what happens at that rally is going to be determined by who turns up."

They both said if the crowd decided to break police lines they would participate in that action regardless of the consequences.

Mr Howard said gatherings such as APEC helped alleviate global poverty by promoting economic growth and trade.

"If they are so concerned about world poverty, why don't they stop for a moment and recognise that the economic growth in the APEC region has lifted tens of millions of people out of poverty since APEC was founded?

Not all the protests being organised for APEC are aimed at globalism. Many groups are opposed to US President George Bush and the war in Iraq.

Mr Howard blamed the fencing through the central business district on protesters threatening violence.

"It's not the fault of the guests in our country," he said.

The fence stretches from King Street to Circular Quay and from George to Macquarie streets and will keep any protesters a long way from dignitaries.

He refused to say whether there was any intelligence warning of a major incident.

Neutrals the colours for protest season

Alex Tibbitts

ANOTHER Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum, another protest, another dilemma: what to wear?

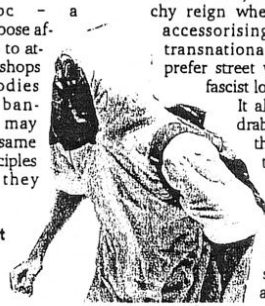
And there's less than a week to the Stop Bush Coalition's two events – a little soiree outside Sydney Town Hall on Tuesday at 5pm and then Saturday morning's big shebang that finishes at Hyde Park.

With the coalition protesting against everything from the "war on terrorism" to climate change to workers' rights, attracting everyone from concerned citizens to greenies, unionists and extremists, thankfully, the anarchists have stepped in to stop fashion chaos.

No trippy-hippy, tie-dyed, rainbow-coloured clothing for these hardliners. They are going for simple neutrals this protest season with just a splash of colour. Most of the loose affiliations – don't call them organisations because that would imply hierarchy – go for black, which is fabulous for formal functions later that evening.

While the anarchists don't like to make loud fashion statements, they like to be heard.

Black Bloc – a transnational loose affiliation – likes to attack big chain shops in black hoodies with a red bandanna. They may not share the same views or principles but at least they share the same colour palette. Inspired by Black Bloc, Sydney's Arterial Bloc destroyed a police truck and hurled anything they could get their hands on at last year's G20 meeting in Melbourne. They go for white overalls and bandannas.



The look ... a protester at last year's G20 meeting. Photo: AFP/William West

Members of Mutiny go for dark hoodies, too, but let anarchy reign when it comes to accessorising. Antifa, the transnational anti-fascists, prefer street wear with anti-fascist logos.

It all sounds rather drab until we get to the socialists with their love of primaries. And we can all be thankful for the hippies with their op-shop cast-offs and rainbows.

Police should respect our right to protest! They should facilitate our peaceful march!
If we're going to make unrealistic demands, can't we make better ones?
We might as well ask the state to dissolve itself & give us cake!

Comic from *Mutiny* #17, August 2007.

[redacted]

4th September 2007

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear [redacted]

Re: Exclusion from APEC Security Areas.

Pursuant to a delegation of authority by the NSW Commissioner of Police under the APEC Meeting (Police Powers) Act 2007 (NSW) ("The Act"), I have made a determination in relation to you.

Section 26 of the Act allows for the exclusion of certain persons from APEC security areas. In accordance with that section, I have directed your exclusion from all APEC security areas from 12.01am on 30 August 2007 until midnight on 12 September 2007. Your name is now on the "Excluded Persons List" compiled under that section of the Act. Attached are copies of sections 24 & 26 of the Act. That list will not be published.

APEC security areas include the core declared areas; additional declared areas that may be prescribed and restricted areas. If you are found in a restricted area (all of which will be within declared areas) you may be subject to imprisonment.

To assist you in remaining away from the security areas, I also attach copies of descriptions and maps of the declared areas.

Members of the NSW Police Force have been advised of my decision and should you attempt to enter an APEC security area, or if you are found within such area, during the above period you will be taken into custody and removed to an area outside APEC security areas.

I also inform you that the Act imposes a presumption against bail for certain offences committed in APEC security areas and that if you were charged with such offences you may not be released from custody until after the expiration of the APEC period on 12 September 2007.

Yours faithfully,

Deputy Commissioner
Field Operations

AUTHORISED AS AN EXCLUDED PERSON 28/08/2007

Cl 6(1)

Some of the more interesting files from the APEC excluded persons list, obtained by a journalist in September 2008.

SURNAME	Cl 6(1)
FIRST NAME	
DOB	
CNI	
ADDRESS	
STATE	
CHARGES	Aggravated Burglary x 2. G20. Next court date – 31/08 Convicted of assault police in execution of duty 1 May 2004 Erskineville Reclaim the Streets Rally H 204005.35
INTELLIGENCE	
AFFILIATION IMG	Mutiny
PARAMETER	1 & 2
ASSESSMENT DATE	22/08/2007

ASSESSMENT

Cl 6(1) is a leading member of Mutiny. Mutiny have a history of conducting violent and disruptive protest actions. Recent protest activity by the group has taken the form of decentralised action, that is, targeting corporations or government departments via corporate engagements. Whilst members of Mutiny participated in violent protest that occurred in Melbourne during the G20 Finance Meeting in 2006, Cl 6(1) was observed to be providing leadership and direction to such individuals. Cl 6(1) has Victorian court matter pending in relation to offences committed during G20 protest activity. For at least the past four years; Cl 6(1) has actively participated in protest activity targeted selected persons, organisations and events. Initially his activities were mainly focused on refugee rights and local issues such as Aboriginal youths and student rights. Over the past eighteen months however, his focus appears to have shifted toward anti-globalisation activity as demonstrated by his participation in the protests against the Forbes Conference and G20. Based on protests that Cl 6(1) has organised and/or participated in, it is assessed that Cl 6(1) has a strong dislike towards police, willing to commit acts of malicious damage, will use masks to disguise his identity and will incite others to commit acts of violence including violence against police. Cl 6(1) is a supporter of movements such as the Black Panther Party; a militant socialist organisation which advocated violence as an agent for change. Cl 6(1) ideologies, Intelligence and level of education make him a particularly high risk activist, especially as he has the ability to recruit other individuals and encouraged their participation in disruptive protest actions which may lead to violence. Current Intelligence indicates that Cl 6(1) is involved with a group planning for disruptive protest actions targeted towards APEC Leaders Week. This group of persons has considered potential targets for protest actions, possible tactics to be used against police and methods to avoid arrest which indicates a militant approach by the group.

AUTHORISED AS AN EXCLUDED PERSON 04/09/2007

	Cl 6(1)

SURNAME	Cl 6(1)
FIRST NAME	
DOB	
CNI	
ADDRESS	
STATE	
CHARGES	Nil
INTELLIGENCE	Activists x 2; Public Order
AFFILIATION IMG	Mutiny
PARAMETER	4
ASSESSMENT DATE	02/09/2007

ASSESSMENT

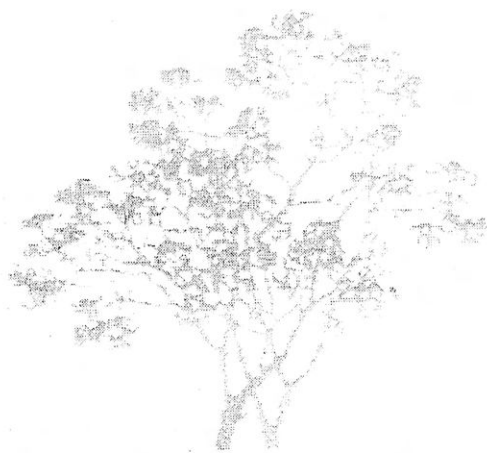
Cl 6(1) has a history of involvement in protests including the Sydney protest against US VP Cheney, protest against PM John Howard in June 2007, UTS Careers Fair protest targeting the Department of Defence stall, and participation in a student sit-in of a CBD intersection in April 2006. A1 Intelligence indicates that on 27 March 2007 Cl 6(1) was part of a small group of Mutiny members who attempted to maliciously damage the ASIS/Defence stall at the UTS by deploying 'stink bombs' and red dye. Due to a proactive operation their efforts were thwarted.

Mutiny is an anarchist group consisting of a number of layers of trust and information management. Currently it consists of a small group of individuals who form what appears to be an inner core group responsible for the clandestine planning and preparation for violence and malicious damage aimed at police and APEC corporate targets. This core group meets regularly at a covert location to discuss the details of these plans. The last known such meeting took place on 2 September 2007. Cl 6(1) is a member of this group and attends these meetings.

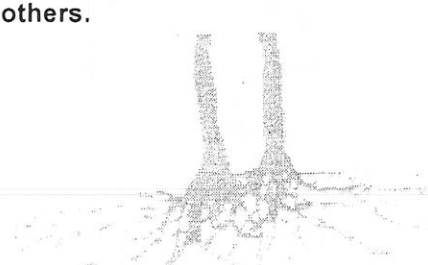
Members of Mutiny participated in violent protest that occurred in Melbourne during the G20 Finance Meeting in 2006. Whilst Cl 6(1) was not arrested for involvement in any G20-related protests, NSW Police can confirm that he was present in Melbourne during this time and associated with Cl 6(1)

RECLAIM YOUR CITY!

If you want to join us to reclaim our city meet at the pink flag at Hyde Park after the rally. We will decide together if we have enough people to enter the excluded zone.



A flyer produced for the anti-APEC rally by the Excluded Bloc, which was made up of Mutiny, ACDC (Melbourne's Alliance for Civil Disobedience Coordination), participants in the FLARE in the Void convergence & others.



WE ARE ALL EXCLUDED

As the 21 APEC leaders enjoy their private fireworks display, their private lunches and their private zoo, we are here today in solidarity with the people who have been individually excluded from Sydney's Green Zone. The APEC excluded persons list is an outrageous and unacceptable attempt to destroy our capacity to engage in political protest around the issues which affect our lives. But it is not only those named individuals who are being excluded.

We are all excluded when police and military take over our public spaces, underwrite our daily lives with fear. We are here because we are against exclusion. We are here to assert our right to have our voices heard. We are here because this is our city, our streets, our public space. We are here because we are not afraid.

We see exclusion when Howard sends in tanks and troops to indigenous communities, denying them control of their land and lives. We are here today because we see that an inclusive society begins with recognition of indigenous sovereignty to land and is built on a commitment to walking together with respect.

We are excluded when our government takes away our ability to collectively organise in our workplaces. We are here today because we want a world where the work we choose to do is meaningful and beneficial for us all.

In this country, in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world, we are excluded when the decisions that affect our lives are made behind barbed wire fences and concrete barricades. This is not exclusive to APEC 2007. This happens whenever bodies like the WTO, IMF and World Bank meet. It happens whenever governments enact laws that are opposed to the needs and desires of their populations. It happens when the actions of corporations threaten livelihoods and destabilise communities. We are excluded from elections because both major parties represent the same interests. We are here today because we want a society where the decisions that affect communities are made by those communities. We reject the economic and political inequalities that APEC creates and perpetuates.

We are excluded when our access to health care, education, water, food and shelter are denied by the push for privatisation. We are here today because there are enough resources in the world to give all people a life with dignity. We want a world where these resources are shared.

We are excluded when we are oppressed, isolated or disrespected because of our gender, ethnicity, age, sexuality, physical or mental ability. We are here because we want societies and communities that embrace a diversity of voices, histories and knowledges.

We are here because we reject a world of exclusion and because we imagine a world that celebrates the passions, skills and creativity of us all. Until this world is realised we are all excluded people.

"THAT'S THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS IN NSW NOW"

- Chief Po[o]lice Commissioner Andrew Scipione on the APEC police tactics and repression

a discussion about the APEC protests and the APEC police state

wednesday 3rd october
6:30pm at UTS [room directions at tower entrance]

for more info email mutineers@graffiti.net

ublished in *Mutiny* zine #16, July 2007

New Invasion of the NT

- Mutiny

The Little Children are Sacred report, commissioned by the NT government, detailed conversations the authors had with Aboriginal communities around the NT on the issue of child sexual abuse. The results of the report were not news. Similar reports have been written in other states. Amanda Vanstone sat on a similar report for eighteen months in 2001, & sexual abuse is certainly an issue in Australia outside of Aboriginal communities.

Why did this report elicit such a grand response from John Howard & Mal Brough, the Minister for Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs? We can guess that it's because we're in an election year & Howard was slipping in the polls. Or because he wanted to be seen as a decisive, take-charge kinda-guy. Maybe it's a way to distract the voters from the effects of Work Choices or Australian involvement in Iraq? Or possibly, it's a cunning way to move a liberal economic agenda that needs land for mining, or an excuse to tie welfare payments to whether Aboriginal community members (& soon, the remainder of Australians) are able to hold down the right job, wear the right clothes, visit a doctor that's hundreds of kilometers away & attend schools that don't exist.

While the response is a new low, it's not shocking. It is simply another moment in time when the veil is lifted & the true state of who controls this country is revealed. Either way, we can be sure that the 'Emergency Response' from Howard & Brough is not actually meant to solve child sexual abuse.

On June 21st, when Howard & Brough went public with what they call their 'Emergency Response" & "Intervention' to the issue of Child sexual abuse in NT, Howard stated that "law & order [would] be a central focus of the measures' they were announcing." 60 police & army troops were meant to be sent in to NT communities to restore 'order', & back up the newly announced policies, including a ban on alcohol & pornography (though not in mining towns). Affected communities & allied group were confused. Why was a military operation being conducted when there was no war, & when the report called for the creation of infrastructure, schools, water, sewage, housing, jobs, & most of all education & healing from the trauma of colonization?

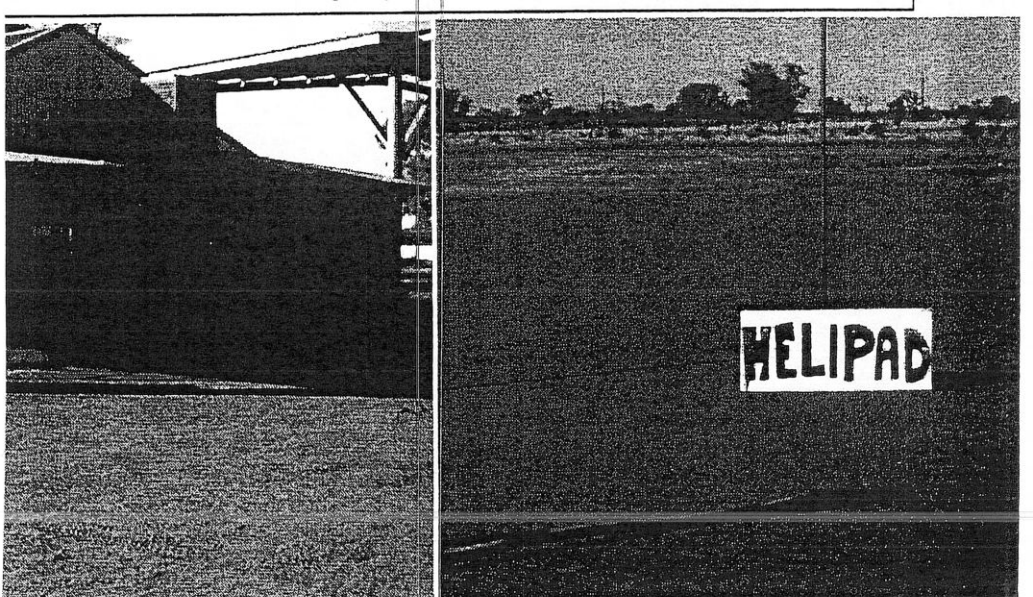
These photos show signs put up in the Willowra community on Warlpiri country,

An article on the World Socialist Website by Patrick O'Connor deftly points out the similarities between the response to Solomon Islands as a 'failed state' & the proposed response to Aboriginal communities, effectively viewed as 'failed'. O'Connor points out that in both cases the underlying motivations are presented as entirely humanitarian. In 2003 2,000 troops & police were deployed to the Solomon Islands. $200 million is sent to the Solomon Islands each year: virtually none of this is spent on healthcare, education or social services. More than half of that is spent on Australian soldier & officials' salaries; another quarter is paid to GRM, a Packer-owned company that runs the prison system. The Solomon Islands remain amongst the most impoverished countries in the world. The influx of wealthier Australians has fueled inflation & UNIFEC has noted that child exploitation, abuse & trafficking, are significant issues on the Islands.

Howard & Brough are attempting to apply a 'failed state' solution that hasn't worked so far. Flying in police, army troops & officials cannot fix the effects of colonization, racism & oppression. In addition, a recently released Response & Counter Proposal from the Combined Aboriginal Communities of NT, notes that the criminal justice system as it stands is failing Aboriginal communities, as offenders receive little or no rehabilitation. The question then becomes: who benefits from jailing even more of the Aboriginal community without new programs? The Counter Proposal calls for community groups working alongside the police, but in a way that allows for a community voice in the process, where the community can take control & assists in the healing process with safe houses, community justice groups, & mediation services.

Howard & Brough's true motives are questioned again when we consider whether they have paid any attention to Aboriginal health in the past. There is a 17 year mortality gap between Aboriginal & non-Aboriginal Australians. Children under 2 in the Top End of NT have a 20% malnutrition rate. There are higher incidences of cholesterol, obesity, hypertension, diabetes... The list goes on. This is not new. 99% of all Aboriginal communities have no substance abuse service, & only 54% have state funded primary care services. In a letter responding to the government's intervention plans the Mutijulu community stated that "the Howard government declared an emergency in our community over two years ago – when they appointed an administrator to the health clinic – & since then we have

250km north-west of Alice Springs, to 'welcome' the military and police force.

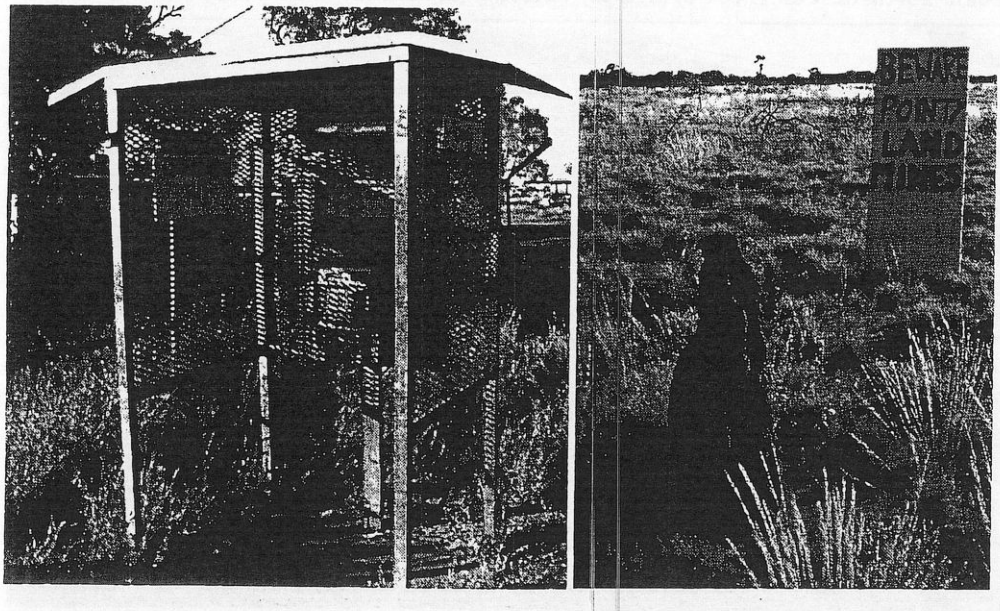


been without a doctor, we have less health workers, our council has been sacked, all our youth & health programs have been cut." The community has called for Brough to fast track a dialysis machine that could be bought with money that had been set aside for them by a foundation, but was being held up by the National Parks.

The Government initially claimed that all Aboriginal children in the NT would be subject to mandatory sexual health checks (it may now have backed down to 2,000 voluntary checks tied to welfare). These checks are to be performed by doctors who probably would not know local language, or anything about the culture. In the best of situations & with the most respectful doctor, a sexual health check can be a nervewracking & embarrassing experience. An insensitive doctor of a different race & gender performing a check against your parents' wishes & for no known reason could be traumatizing & could well be considered abuse. There is also little information about what would happen if the doctor suspects abuse. Do they take the child away from the parent, creating a second stolen generation? If the doctor finds other health problems, will they have the resources to provide medication & ongoing support? It's doubtful.

The Proposed Response from the Aboriginal Community notes that trauma & grief are significant & frequent, connected to invasion & colonization, loss of land & culture, premature mortality, high rates of incarceration, family separation & deaths in custody. The NT's Aboriginal health body, AMSANT, has called the Prime Minister's plan to give sexual health checks to all Aboriginal children in the NT a "racist, divisive & illegal act." In the same press release, John Paterson, the EO, "urge[d] all its partners & all allies of Aboriginal people like the AMA & the Defence Forces to refuse to negotiate with the Federal Government on these issues until Aboriginal organizations & individuals are actively engaged in the design, delivery & assessment of any solutions." Paterson also claimed to be stunned & disgusted by Rudd's complicity.

All evidence points to ulterior government motives. Few believe that the short term plan proposed by the government could work. The initial report claimed that it would take at least 15 years to grapple with & heal wounds of colonization that lead to sexual abuse. These steps would include education, empowerment, dialogue, partnerships & housing, but not the army.



Nowhere in the 'Little Children are Sacred' report does it state that a solution to the various social & health problems existing in some Indigenous communities should involve military intervention, the cutting of welfare or the lifting of long-standing Aboriginal land tenure arrangements. Indeed, the changes to land ownership constitute a move by the government to remove control over Indigenous land from the targeted communities.

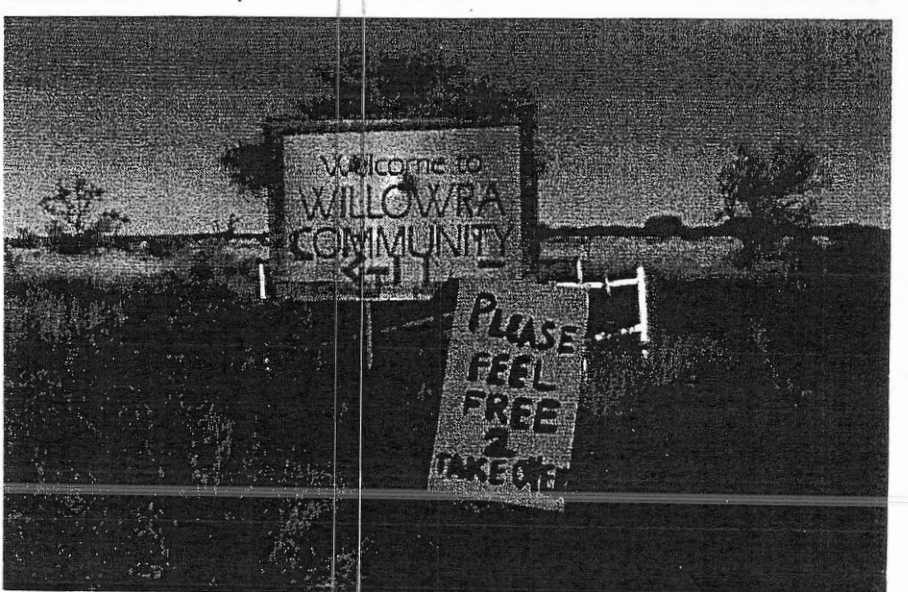
Pat Turner, the former chief executive of the now-disbanded Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission, said: "We believe that this government is using child sexual abuse as the Trojan horse to resume total control of our lands." Turner said there was no evidence to suggest scrapping the permit system for indigenous land would lead to improvements in children's health. "We are totally against tying serious social need to our hard-fought land ownership & land tenure," she said.

There are two parts to Howard's land grab. The first is the compulsory acquisition of 64 "major Aboriginal communities" spread across the NT. The second involves changes to the permits system under the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act.

These two 'initiatives' do nothing to help these communities, let alone solve child abuse. Rather, they equate to favourable conditions for the Howard government's lucrative mining & tourism agenda in the area. Dr Helen Caldicott, an anti-nuclear activist, said she feared Prime Minister John Howard would turn Australia into the dumping ground for the world's nuclear waste. She said the takeover of Aboriginal land titles, part of the Government's crackdown of child sexual abuse in indigenous communities, was merely an excuse to clear the way for the dumping of waste in remote areas.

Revealing Howard's real agenda, he has refused to guarantee that Aboriginal land leased for five years by the Commonwealth will be handed back to the communities. In the meantime, it may be sub-leased to a mining company or any other company. Mining operations could be up & running within five years & by then the damage will have been done.

Clearly the Howard government does not want to solve the various issues present in some Indigenous communities – otherwise he would no be sending in the military or pursing a blatant land grab of Indigenous land. Indeed, these issues are being used as an excuse to destroy native title & land rights, & as a pre-election ploy from a government that could not even say the word "Sorry" to thousands of children removed from their parents & communities.



PROCHOICE PROTEST

8 am Saturday October 20. meet at the corner of Johnston St & Albion St (just off Parramatta Rd, Annandale

Every month a group called 'Helpers of God's Precious Infants' (HOGPI) holds a ceremony at St Brendan's Church in Annandale before 'processing' to the abortion clinic on Salisbury Rd, where they sing, pray & harrass passers by & people entering the clinic with their anti-choice beliefs, gory photographs & plastic foetuses. HOGPI is an international movement linked to the Catholic Church.

Women have the right to access medical care & make our own decisions about our bodies & our lives without being intimidated & hassled by their so-called 'sidewalk counselors'. In accessing an abortion clinic a woman has to make a difficult & emotional decision: but it is her decision. HOGPI claim to be caring but their politics are fundamentally anti-woman & their harassment is cruel.

Our aim is to hold a counter-protest at their church & prevent them from reaching the clinic. We do not want to create confrontation near the clinic itself on this occassion to minimise the harm to patients & workers.

These people are organised & are part of a global movement.

We need to be organised too.

This action is called by an independent group of activists interested in ongoing organising aroundthese issues. Please contact us if you have questions or advice, would like to help organise or if your group is interested in endorsing &/or participating in this protest.

reproductive.freedoms@gmail.com

ACTION PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday October 17 :: 6.30 pm :: UTS Tower Building

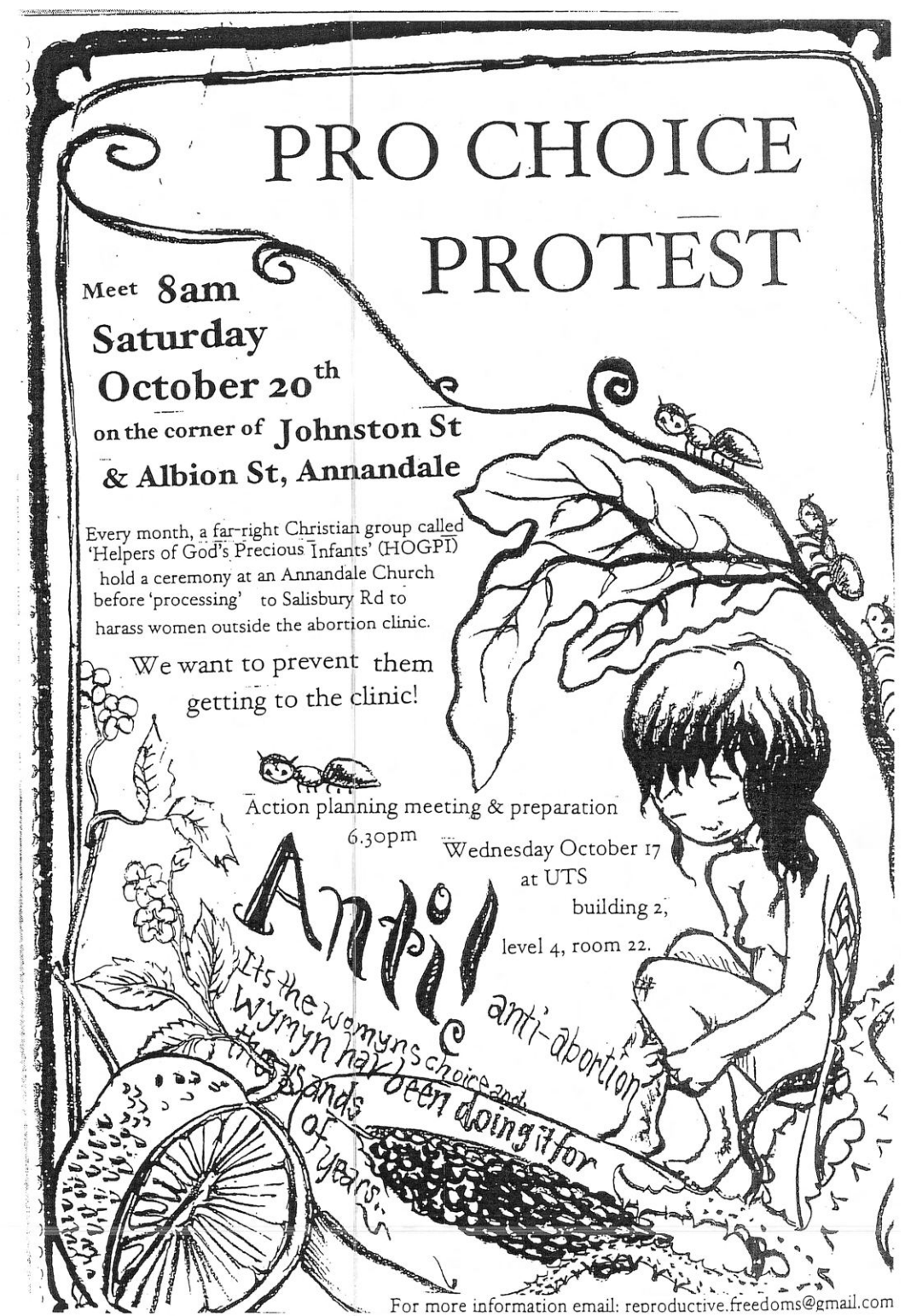
PRO CHOICE PROTEST

Meet **8am**
Saturday
October 20th
on the corner of **Johnston St**
& Albion St, Annandale

Every month, a far-right Christian group called 'Helpers of God's Precious Infants' (HOGPI) hold a ceremony at an Annandale Church before 'processing' to Salisbury Rd to harass women outside the abortion clinic.

We want to prevent them getting to the clinic!

Action planning meeting & preparation
6.30pm Wednesday October 17
at UTS
building 2,
level 4, room 22.



For more information email: reproductive.freedoms@gmail.com

Solidarity with the 17 NZ people arrested on "terrorist charges"

The only threat to the people, is the government and police!

The morning of Monday 15th October, there were simultaneous raids across the North Island, in Auckland, Whakatane, Wellington, Ruatoki, and Hamilton. Later in the morning, Police came to at least four houses in Christchurch. 17 people have been arrested and 60 are being sought for questioning.

They have been targeted at people involved in the Tino Rangatiratanga, Peace and Environmental movements. At 6am raids were carried out at A Space Inside anarchist social centre in Auckland and the 128 activist Community Centre in Wellington.

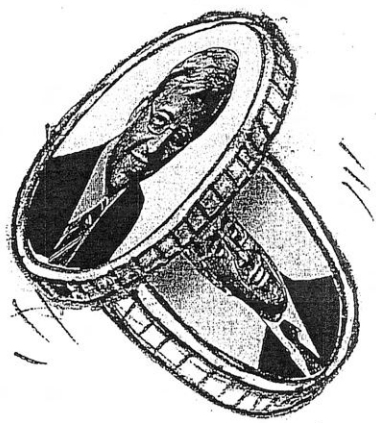
This is a full on criminalisation of dissent, it is deplorable and a disgusting attack on Tino Rangatiratanga, Environmental & Peace activists. This is a very convenient way for the police to arrest activists in the country, and smear them with terrorism, in the style of a cointelpro programme. These acts of state repression are not isolated, but instead demonstrate the global state of terror which states are prepared to go to in order to crush dissent and instill a culture of fear. This mass repression was also visible at APEC, which demonstrated the extent to which policing has gone in order crush dissent and intimidate those who challenge the status quo.

The lines are of terrorism are blurred to such an extent in which the concept needs to be rejected. It has been blatantly used to criminalise dissent and justify increased state power globally. We are here in solidarity with those arrested resisting the NZ state and struggling against its destruction of the environment and indigenous lands.

A leaflet produced for a solidarity rally at the New Zealand consulate in October 2007

Posters & a flyer produced in the lead up to the federal election in November

Different sides of the same coin... but the coin still rules



Whether Howard or Rudd win the election only the rich will profit.

Let's take action!
Post-election rally
1pm, 9th December
Town Hall

Whoever wins let's be ungovernable

Contact: mutineers@graffiti.net

WHOEVER WINS THE ELECTION LET'S BE UNGOVERNABLE

PROTEST AGAINST THE WARS: 1pm SUNDAY DECEMBER 9 TOWN HALL

mutineers•graffiti.net

We'll all be stoked to see

Howard go!

but Rudd is a

conservative
christian
businessman

what's the difference?

whoever wins, let's be ungovernable!

mutineers@graffiti.net

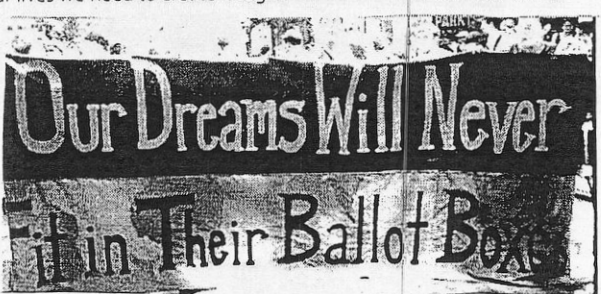
whoever wins, let's be ungovernable!

After 11 long years of John Howard it seems like the time may possibly have arrived to stick the boot in and kick the Liberals out. Whether you're Aboriginal in the Northern Territory; a factory worker in the suburbs; a sales assistant in the city; a student at a public school wondering how you'll afford to go to university; an asylum seeker attempting to find refuge; a displaced Iraqi or Afghani; anyone concerned with the environment; or a few million other people, you'll probably be cheering to see the back of the Liberals. It's been 11 years of attacks on all fronts, with Howard and his cronies Ruddock, Costello, Abbott, Vanstone, Brough, Hockey, etc each taking their turn to stick the knife into some portion of society when they deemed it advantageous to their interests.

That their attacks have targeted such an array of groups isn't a coincidence – it's ideological. The Liberals are a party for business first, with the rich and the conservative benefiting the most. The unrelenting attacks on unions, the invasion of Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory to the benefit of mining companies, the refusal to meet environmental demands around global warming and certainly the march to war in the middle-east all confirms this. So yes, let's rejoice should we finally get rid of them (and hit the streets should we not.

But what will we get in return? A Labor Party that has irreversibly moved politically to the right and who are no longer embarrassed to confirm this shift with both Kevin Rudd and deputy Julia Gillard repeatedly stating that Labor is now a party for big business. They have been just as two-faced as the Liberals, as they try to win this election on the back of opposition to Workchoices, while at the same time denouncing the role of unions and refusing to confirm in what way they will repeal this legislation. Similarly they supported the invasion of the Northern Territory, requiring the Racial Discrimination Act to be sidelined. Simply Labor has proved little more than a clone of the Liberal Party (see back for more details).

What we have here is typically what we have seen electoral politics produce around the world – that is, a situation where there may be more than one party, but no real choice. That is because parliamentary democracy is not designed to work for those already marginalised. Any party that gets into government, no matter how progressive it claims to be, takes on the role of determining our futures with the power handed to it and we are expected to passively sit by and comply. We cannot afford to wait 3 years after every election to have some sway in decisions that will affect our capacity to live. By handing in a ballot we are merely handing over our consent to have our own power taken away and given to others. The world moves too quickly and our lives are too short for us to continue to accept a situation where the communities we live in cannot have a say over decisions that most affect us. Whether you choose not to cast a vote or do vote because you hate Howard so much, it doesn't stop here. If we want a system where we can control our lives we need to create it together. We can vote with our actions every moment of every day.



No matter who wins the election, not that much will change.
The wars will still continue, workers conditions will not improve, there will be no significant action around climate change and we still won't have any real say.

We can't afford to be complacent! Let's take action!
Post-election rally: December 9th, 1pm, Town Hall.

mutineers@graffiti.net

spot the difference....

Liberal	Labor
Environment and Climate Change	
- refuses to sign the Kyoto Protocal (international treaty to combat climate change) -At recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, Howard agreed to 'aspirational' goals to reducing emissions (meaning they'll 'try' but who cares if it fails)	- Rudd [like Howard] is an enthusiastic devotee of 'clean' coal technology. 'Clean' coal is a myth. Most studies indicate its use could only reduce actual emissions levels by 2050. We need urgent action now to combat climate change, which can only come through safe and affordable renewable energy technology
Militarism	
-Howard has actively supported Bush's 'war on terror', ie: expansionist agenda,which has resulted in active participation of military occupations such as Iraq and Afghanistan, which together may have claimed over a million lives. Continuing the repression at home means racist scapegoating of muslims and political dissent is crushed. -Using the same rhetoric as the 'war on terror' Australian troops and federal police were deployed to the Pacific in 'Operation RAMSI', to further advance Australia's economic interests in the region -The Liberal government's recent decision to send troops and cops into the Northern Territory, denying communities their basic rights to manage their own affairs, constitutes a new form of militarism.	-Rudd's genuine position on the Iraq War is extremely weak. He plans to keep 1000 troops 'in and around' Iraq and withdraw only 500. The withdrawal will only take place after negotiations with the U.S. -Rudd wants Australian troops to finish their current stay in Iraq and then complete another "rotation" of six months. He also supports the war in Afghanistan, and the "terror laws" that have led to the imprisonment of Jack Thomas and Mohammed Haneef, that have been passed along with the wars in the Middle East. -Rudd's response to the invasion however has been to echo it. He was quoted tellingly that "We don't intend to roll it back (the NT policy) at all."
Workers Rights	
-Howard's attacks on the workplace were epitomised by his recent WorkChoices legislation, to which there has been mass opposition. WorkChoices means lower pay, worse conditions, no job security, and making it illigal for workers to organise to improve their conditions. Liberal Government has always been and continues to be about supporting the growth of big business and removing power from the working class.	-Labor's policy has been a vehement refusal to support the fundamental rights and dignities of 'ordinary' workers. Trade union officials deemed 'too militant', have been expelled from the ALP in recent months. The right to strike is severely curtailed under the ALP's policy. Australian Workplace Agreement's will remain in force until they expire. A 'flexibility' cause will be inserted into all bargaining agreements that allow for individual negotiation with the employer.

This is a brief snapshot of some key policy areas in which both parties offer the same repulsive agenda. Whoever wins let's work together to gain autonomy!!

mutineers@graffiti.net

FOR A POLITICS OF CONFRONTATION:
STOPPING AUSTRALIA'S AGENDA OF MILITARISM AND WAR

mutineers@graffiti.net

The results of the recent federal elections clearly showed a mass opposition to the Howard government, with Howard himself not only being bumped from his prime ministerial position, but from Australian party politics. However, we can have no illusions that voting in a Rudd government will deliver any significant changes. War and militarism will continue to be a central element of Australian capitalism – whether it's Liberal or Labor in power. It is only through mass direct action, like which happened during the Vietnam War, in the movement's against uranium mining and nuclear power, in campaigns against neoliberal globalization, that we can stop the Rudd government from continuing Howard's bloody rampage.

In his victory address to the nation, Rudd stated that the US will remain "our great friend and ally". In military terms, this relationship means a continuation of Australian Defence Force presence in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Continued support for the US 'war on terror', means that the 'terror laws' will remain. Racism and hate towards Muslim communities will continue to be whipped up by the Islamophobic rhetoric surrounding these laws and we will no doubt see further bungles like the Haneef case, as civil liberties slip further away. The creation of the Terrorism Investigation Squad and the Public Order and Riot Squad are representative of the move toward a more militarised style of policing, also justified by the rhetoric of 'terrorism'

The presence of Australian police and soldiers in the Pacific is yet another sign of Australia's aggressive military strategy. This intervention, currently in its 4th year, has received the firm approval of Rudd. He has stated clearly that if troops are withdrawn from Iraq, they will be redeployed into the Pacific. The occupation of various Pacific nations, which has been meet with riots in East Timor, Tonga and the Solomon Islands, and heated opposition from elected officials in all these countries, is clearly a neo-colonialist intervention allowing Australia to gain further economic control over the region (pto.....)

SHUT DOWN THE CITY!

cont. from other side.....
economic control over the region.

The recent military occupation of Aboriginal communities in the NT is wholeheartedly supported by Rudd. Just like Howard, Rudd believes that the best option for these communities is not real help through social programs and funding, but through soldiers, white 'managers' and tanks. This disgustingly racist invasion-requiring the suspension of the Racial Discriminations Act- is a land grab at heart; facilitating the expansion of uranium mining and waste dumps, and is another example of both the Labor and Liberal parties' readiness to flex their military might for economic gain.

It is clear that we cannot have any faith that simply casting a vote will end this agenda of war and militarism. No matter who is in power we must not be complacent, but seek genuine change through committed and militant action.

March 2008 will see the 5 year anniversary since the invasion of Iraq. We cannot hope that simply coming out on the street to show our opposition to bloody imperial war will be enough to end Australia's involvement. Year after year we have seen that this is not enough – we must do more. We want to show our opposition by causing real damage to the profits of the corporations who directly gain from military occupations, such as that of Iraq, Afghanistan, the Pacific and the NT. We are calling for mass direct action that will see a shut-down of the city. For it is only through such action that we can hope to end this agenda of war and militarism!!

SHUT DOWN THE CITY!

MARCH 2008 - 5 YEARS OF HELL IN IRAQ

STOP ALL MILITARISM AND WAR!

This is an editorial Mutiny wrote for *Unless You Are Free: an anarchist newspaper against war & militarism*, produced by Mutiny & Anarchist Direct Action, from Melbourne, in March 2008.

The paper was produced to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq but grew to include many more topics, incldluing the racist 'intervention' into Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, the Australian government's military meddling in the region & the use of 'anti-terrorism' to attack activists in Aotearoa New Zealand. It also included historic examples of direct actions & rebellions by soldiers, sailors & civilians.

> *The real tragedy is that most people in the world are trapped between the horror of a putative peace and the terror of war. Those are the two sheer cliffs we're hemmed in by. The question is: How do we climb out of this crevasse?*
>
> *For those who are materially well-off, but morally uncomfortable, the first question you must ask yourself is do you really want to climb out of it? How far are you prepared to go? Has the crevasse become too comfortable?*
>
> *If you really want to climb out, there's good news and bad news.*
>
> *The good news is that the advance party began the climb some time ago. They're already half way up. Thousands of activists across the world have been hard at work preparing footholds and securing the ropes to make it easier for the rest of us. There isn't only one path up. There are hundreds of ways of doing it. There are hundreds of battles being fought around the world that need your skills, your minds, your resources. No battle is irrelevant. No victory is too small.*
>
> *The bad news is that colorful demonstrations, weekend marches and annual trips to the World Social Forum are not enough. There have to be targeted acts of real civil disobedience with real consequences. Maybe we can't flip a switch and conjure up a revolution. But there are several things we could do. For example, you could make a list of those corporations who have profited from the invasion of Iraq and have offices here in Australia. You could name them, boycott them, occupy their offices and force them out of business. If it can happen in Bolivia, it can happen in India. It can happen in Australia. Why not?*
>
> -Arundhati Roy, 2004

> *There's a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part, you can't even passively take part, and you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon the levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop! And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, to the people who own it, that unless you're free, the machine will be prevented from working at all!*
>
> -Mario Savio, 1964

Millions of people have marched to show their opposition to the war on Iraq, before it started and over the five bloody years it's continued. And yet, it goes on. Our rulers don't care what we think as long as we don't get in the way, and neither do those profiting from the carnage and so-called reconstruction. And we didn't get in the way.

Once we had gathered to show our opposition, we simply dispersed. We went home, we went back to work, back to school or back to the dole queue and continued our lives as if nothing was different. But things are different - not just for the civilians of Iraq and Afghanistan and not just for the soldiers sent to fight, but for us all.

The war on terror is everywhere, and it's a war against all of us. We're meant to become fearful of outsiders and less trusting of our neighbours. We're meant to obey increasingly restrictive laws in the name of our own safety and security - and indeed, the consequences of disobeying can be frightening.

While corporations like ANZ & Halliburton collaborate in & reap profits from the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan, we see people losing ever more & more control & capacity to organise in their workplaces through laws created by big business & the government.

In the Pacific region and the Northern Territory we have seen the Australian government act in an increasingly militarised way, sending in cops & troops to take control of lives and land.

This isn't an aberration in a system that is otherwise fair & good. We see it as a part of global systems of capitalist exploitation: systems that affect the lives of people all over the world, including our own lives.

We hope you question these concepts and consider joining us in resistance.

To make things better we have to do more than walk around the block a couple of times a year. We have to resist in our work and in our day-to-day lives. We have to resist increased policing-seen dramatically in Sydney through the APEC police state last year- and support those who are targeted by it.

From arms manufacturing to transport, from information gathering to logistical support, war is an industry: and like any industry, it can be shut down.

If we really want to stop these wars, we have to make it harder for the war to be waged. We have to raise the costs - social and financial - of war through direct action. We have to use the only weapons we have - our bodies, our minds and our creative defiance.

From World War I to the Vietnam war, wars have been ended because soldiers mutinied. They refused to follow orders, realising that their enemies weren't the soldiers of another country but their own officers & the politicians & businessmen who sent them off to kill and be killed.

Such refusal to acquiesce and obey can happen in the here and now in this region too; from refugees & supporters combining to tear down the fences of the Woomera detention camp in 2002, to the mass blockades of the Melbourne Crown Casino during the World Economic Forum in 2000, to Christian pacifists breaking into U.S spy bases, to the smallest everyday act of disobedience and rebellion; moments of resistance are possible.

If this war engages all of us, we can all engage in mutiny - we can refuse to follow orders, and we can take the power back into our own lives and our communities.

Written by some members of Mutiny, published in *Mutiny* zine #21, December 2007.

A Proposal for a Regional Anarchist Federation

Introduction

Even as many of us constantly engage in struggles to enact our revolutionary politics and ideas in collectives, as individuals, at work and at play, there is often an underlying sense of isolation from broader anarchist activity from which to draw knowledge and inspiration. We feel that this is a severe barrier on our ability to maintain effective struggle or to even propagate a revolutionary, anarchist politics on a larger-scale. We believe a Federation that collectives (and individuals) over the wide distances of this region can align with would begin to solve these problems.

Mostly the feeling that an Anarchist Federation is necessary emanates from a simple desire for solidarity amongst revolutionaries that cannot always be found in our local communities and workplaces. A Federation could provide strong support for campaigns and actions across the region. When organising around similar issues, collectives would gain a greater momentum from being able to share ideas and resources with others from across the continent and beyond. This is not a new idea but we hope that a new attempt can be made at solidifying such possibilities. That is what this proposal is for.

A solid, ongoing federation would help us look after each other. Solidarity with and support for those of us (and also those who aren't 'us'), who come under the repressive boot of the state is a crucial aspect of mutual aid and creating an anarchist community and will be an ongoing project for as long as we continue to resist.

Much of what communication currently takes place between anarchists happens on an ad-hoc basis at convergences, which are usually connected to major protests. This activist focus tends to exclude those who, because of family or work responsibilities, geographic isolation, or other reasons, can't, or don't want to, attend such events. A federation would enable better communication and ongoing political development. It could be a useful point of reference for people who, for whatever reason, are unable to be involved in collectives but who want to stay in contact or who need support. This would be important in helping to ensure intergenerational continuity so that individuals are able to stay involved and connected to anarchist struggle while being able to pass on their knowledge.

We do not wish to see a federation replicate or 'override' networks that already exist. By wanting to organise more explicitly as anarchists we don't want to become inward-looking, purist or isolated. On the contrary, we hope that if we are more strongly organised, we will be better able to work alongside and be a part of social struggles that do not define themselves as anarchist.

One of the points we've discussed frequently is the tension between openness and political commonality. We don't think it's necessary or desirable to try to form an organisation of every activist, or even everyone who calls themselves an anarchist, in the region. Without a certain level of shared politics we won't be able to go beyond talking about what we're against and begin to talk about, and work towards, what we want. Alternately, we don't want to define too narrowly a particular type of anarchism. One of the benefits we see of a federation is the possibility that different strands of anarchism can learn more about each other, and that we can further develop both our common and our separate politics. We want as much as possible that our contacts be your contacts, our networks your networks, our resources your resources and that internal strength can be translated into an outward focus.

This proposal is very much a draft. We're putting forward our ideas in the hope that other people will consider and discuss the idea of a federation, not because we know for sure what it should be like.

It was written by a small group of anarchists in Sydney. We've been helped a lot by discussion with others from Sydney and elsewhere, from looking at other models and from discussion that happened around previous proposals for a federation here. The people who wrote this are involved in anarchist projects such as Mutiny and the Black Rose Books collective, but it hasn't been endorsed by these groups.

How we might get from proposal to federation:

Over the next few months, we hope that people will discuss the idea of an Anarchist Federation in their groups, in their cities, through existing forums & through an email list and a blog set up for such discussion.

http://afederation.wordpress.com

Anarchist.federation.discussion@gmail.com

Within the first half of next year we would like to help organise a convergence with the explicit purpose of discussing, and hopefully forming, the federation.

Common politics

The fundamental politics for participation in the federation would be that members:

- Seek the abolition of capitalism and class society in all its forms.
- Support an organisational philosophy based on decentralisation, mutual aid and autonomy, and reject domination and hierarchical/authoritarian organising.
- Oppose all forms of oppression and power over others and recognise that these rarely play out in isolation but are strongly interwoven and connected.
- Believe that an anarchist society is desirable, necessary and possible. Revolutionary change isn't going to come from leaders, experts or professional activists but can only come from below: from the collective self-organisation of 'ordinary' people.
- Believe in solidarity across and against borders and are internationalists. We reject the state and all its functions such as the police and military.

Some further points:

Here are some more thoughts that we've been discussing, and which inform our understanding of what the 5 points mean. These are provided for the purpose of discussion, not to be limits on the basis of federation.

Radical Struggles, Capitalism and Class

There are many different important elements in revolutionary and radical struggle. These include, but are not limited to, class, anti-colonialism, anti-racism, feminism and queer liberation. Some see one liberatory movement – such as the class struggle – as most important, whilst others choose not to create such a hierarchy. We hope that through working together we can discuss these differences in helpful ways.

When we talk about class struggle, we don't simply mean the actions of the 'traditional' blue-collar working class. We recognise that the class composition of today has changed - largely as a product of neoliberal economic policies - and is characterised by conditions of casualisation and precarity. The unpaid and unrecognised labourer, the unemployed, the casually and underemployed, are all integral to revolutionary change. This class is diverse, but interconnected and we realise that all these struggles are affecting the same global capitalist system.

We further understand that capitalism is not just multinational corporations, economic summits or secret meetings of the very rich; it is a social relation and system that is played out and produced in our everyday lives.

Living without Hierarchy

The language of 'non-hierarchical' organising can still be used to implement the centralised control of a few. We believe that radicals should create structures that are genuinely decentralised and leaderless. Some frameworks for this include rotating and recallable delegates, consensus-based process and spokescouncils.

Although we may formally understand that racism, sexism, etc are an oppressive part of capitalism we still need to consciously 'unlearn' these concrete ideas and ways of social interaction in our own political organising and daily lives. This cannot be achieved by merely writing a paper - we need to create a liberatory culture everyday. That there are many ways of resisting all these forms of oppression is a strength, and we want to find ways of connecting our politics with these struggles.

Some Thoughts on Contemporary Struggles

The struggle against the global environmental crisis is inextricably linked to that against capitalism, and is a significant part of contemporary radical action. Environmental crises will necessarily affect those already marginalised and excluded more than those who are economically and socially privileged. 'Green capitalism' is not an answer, and we understand that a truly sustainable society will necessarily be decentralised, anti-capitalist and radically democratic.

We support Indigenous struggles for true sovereignty, dignities and against the theft of land and resources and ongoing genocide. We understand that many modern states were built on a brutal and ongoing colonialism, which continues to be upheld and imposed by police and the military.

Our struggles are internationalist and directed against the nation state. Nationalism and patriotism are barriers that are used to divide and repress 'ordinary' people, and prevent our own autonomous self-organisation. Permitted and unpermitted migration is a pivotal part of contemporary capitalism, dividing rich and poor, and the vast bulk of people on the basis of a false nationality. We accept the slogan that "No One is Ilegal".

Direct Action, not Lobbying or Negotiation

We don't want to negotiate with the representatives of the state or the functionaries of capital. We realise that the dominant global institutions are so intrinsically undemocratic, pervasive and directed by profit-making that lobbying has little or no effect. We see direct action and mutual aid as occurring in many different forms and as the most practical and realistic way of building our power, our autonomy and achieving revolutionary change.

Thoughts on structure

1. When we talk about a regional federation, we are deliberately unclear about where in particular we are talking about. To limit ourselves to Australian borders seems silly: we would like to be open to comrades from Aotearoa and further. On the other hand, perhaps it would be more practical to begin with a smaller geographic region. There has already been some discussion about forming an Asian Anarchist Network as well.

2. The federation would be horizontal and based upon already existing affinity groups or collectives that choose to align themselves with it. We see this as one way of ensuring a rejection of top-down politics.

3. We do see there as being some solid requirements for participating individuals and collectives. We believe that there should be some kind of dues structure. This would give us some financial reserve and could be used on, among other things, a publication, jail solidarity and travel expenses for delegates. There would be an e-mail list or a message board for discussion.

4. Anarchist spaces that already exist, such as infoshops throughout the country, could be supported more effectively. They could link up more frequently, and could provide an alternative space for

organizing rather than through establishment-controlled structures like universities or student unions.

5. A regular publication, either quarterly or biannually, could be produced. We see this as crucial to furthering both internal communication and propagating anarchist ideas to a wider audience. A website could be established.

6. An annual convergence (that isn't centred around a major protest) to bring together anarchists from across the region, to strengthen networks, share information and skills and to improve collective campaigns.

7. Collectives would nominate rotating delegates or spokes that would meet either quarterly or every six months. This would be to further communication and facilitate the better functioning of the federation. We believe these would operate by a consensus-based model, with details to be decided at the foundation convergence.

8. These people could be a contact point for the federation in their geographical area. A phone tree for urgent contact and discussion would be established.

9. When there is a cross-over between collective work on certain important issues, federation working groups could be established. For instance this could include an Indigenous Solidarity working group or one against Australian Imperialism. We see collectives across the region working on these issues, and believe that there could be

better co-operation and development of ideas. An Outreach working group could be set up to better spread our shared philosophy.

10. We hope for a safer spaces policy to come out of a foundation convergence and we believe that there should be a grievance committee delegated at each convergence.

Ideas on Safer spaces

We have to talk and think about ways to make the Federation and its events spaces in which we respect and support each other: because this doesn't just happen automatically. It is everyone's responsibility to think about how their behaviour and the behaviour of others affect people's ability to participate and feel safe in a space. We all have to constantly work to ensure our spaces are free from physical violence and sexual assault, from intimidation and discrimination. There will be people involved in the Federation from various backgrounds and with various identities and people will have different experiences of the same spaces. We want to be able to vigorously disagree with each other while still making sure that everyone is listened to and is able to talk.

We want to set aside significant time at the initial convergence to talk about these issues. Any founding document would highlight such concepts as a necessary element of revolutionary struggle. We hope that collectives and individuals will bring concrete ideas and proposals to participate in this dialogue.

Moving Forward

As we have tried to make clear, all parts of this proposal are open for discussion and change. To facilitate discussion over the next few months – hopefully leading to a convergence – we have created a blog and email account. We see the blog as a public forum for discussion while the email would originally be for direct queries/responses/getting in contact. If it becomes necessary we would possibly also look at creating an egroup for more practical matters such as organising a formation convergence.

http://afederation.wordpress.com
Anarchist.federation.discussion@gmail.com

The editorial from *Unless You're Free: an anarchist paper on climate change & the environment*, put together by some members of Mutiny & some Melbourne comrades in July 2008.

This paper was born out of a convergence of anarchists from across the region in Melbourne over Easter. In one of the discussions, there was a clear understanding that, for all that's written about climate change and the environment, a truly radical perspective is mostly absent.

Consequently, some of us wanted to produce a paper that articulated an analysis of why there is a climate crisis, who pays and who will profit from it. We wanted it to not just be reflective, but rather be one that provides resources for and taps into potential for resistance in the rising climate movement.

We wanted to communicate a particular vision of a movement as well-drawing inspiration from the best examples of the past. We hope for it to be self-organised, autonomous and radical in nature, without the need to rely on appeals to those in positions of authority. We've included a series of history lessons-environmental direct actions and rebellions from around the world-to help express this.

We wanted the paper, and the movement, to put forward a strong anti-capitalist politics. We understand that true solutions to climate change are beyond capitalism's ability to adapt. Government's push to promote carbon trading, to privatize electricity, their refusal to accept climate refugees are all clear instances of this. Corporate advertising campaigns like Earth Hour are greenwash at its most banal.

To start talking about what fixing the environmental crisis will really take, we aimed to project an analysis beyond a narrowly-defined, single-issue politics. Avoiding apocalyptic visions or individualist, consumption-based solutions, we hoped that climate change and environment politics would be revealed as global issues that cut across and tie together social, political and economic factors.

To this end, we particularly focused on issues of class, and highlighted instances where environmentalists, radicals and labor movements have worked together against common foes. We saw it as important that we could be able to just as easily give this paper to coal industry workers as to those protesting against that industry.

We've seen enough academic rhetoric and activist jargon. We believe that the climate crisis could be the catalyst for a mass transformation of society, towards radical democracy and the just distribution of clean, free energy sources.

Anarchists and anti-authoritarian revolutionaries have much to contribute to this process. We want to push beyond lies, beyond fear and into hope that a common undertaking to overthrow the unsustainable economic, political and social relations of capitalism will not be an upheaval to be scared of but one that offers the chance to redress some of the damage done to our environment.

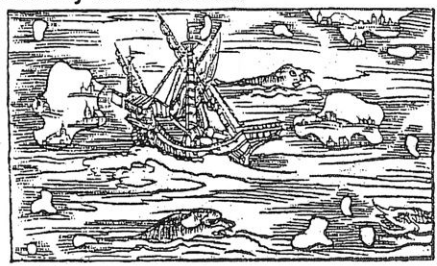
We hope these ambitions are reflected throughout.

The Sea is Rising-so let's use the rich as sandbags!

In solidarity, the editors.

Published in *Mutiny* #29, August 2008, based on a workshop Mutiny organised at the Students of Sustainability conference.

"THE SEA IS RISING & SO IS THE WORKING CLASS!"



This article is a summary of discussion from a workshop that Mutiny put on at the recent Students of Sustainability conference in Newcastle. We aimed to start a conversation about how revolutionary class politics & ideas of workers' control could be part of a movement to stop climate change. It stems from a general concern that if revolutionary ideas like these are absent from this movement it will (& somewhat already does) take on an incessantly monolithic voice. We do not want a top-down movement, & reject the idea that capitalism or the market can provide solutions to this global issue.

The workshop occurred in the lead-up to Climate Camp, which was a real attempt to encourage a grassroots movement, to put direct action along with education at the forefront of that movement & also to create alternatives (ways of living). Still with the mass-action aim of Climate Camp to temporarily shut-down the Hunter Valley coal chain, we felt that it was an important time to be asking how workers in industries like these could be part of this movement.

Discussion was framed around four questions:

1. **Is a green capitalism possible?**
2. **What are current strategies to improve the environment?**
3. **Think about campaigns you're working on now. Is there a connection to class analysis? If not, how could there be?**
4. **If direct action in an environmental campaign has disrupted production for a short time, how could we convince workers to shut it down altogether?**

Instead of telling you what we think the answers are, we are going to attempt to summarise the points that were raised in the workshop.

Green Capitalism

Discussion began around the question of whether a 'green capitalism' could possibly work & provide solutions to the problems of climate change. By 'green capitalism' we mean capitalism absorbing the concerns over environmental destruction & global warming, & churning out 'market-based solutions', such as emissions trading schemes, to supposedly resolve the problems. We argue that capitalism itself is the cause of environmental destruction - rather than being a gangrenous limb of the beast, the disease itself pumps through its veins.

'Green capitalism' is a consumption based solution

This was a particularly important point that emerged in discussion. That most of the 'solutions' to climate change are consumption-based means they are about how the 'individual' can spend their money & apply their time to be more 'carbon neutral'.

This completely misses two points: that big, profit-generating industries are the major source of carbon pollution & that governments will never be able to sufficiently rein them in. Consumption-based solutions also inherently privilege the wealthy (again) & for this reason can never be a

genuine solution. Additionally these solutions reinforce the apathy of consumer society, & celebrate participating in & consuming in new markets as an ecological act.

Capitalism & technology

It came up that because governments & industry are increasingly being pressured into at least looking like they are doing something to address climate change, new technologies that could be part of the solution are being created. Could this be the market doing exactly what capitalists say it is meant to by creating a supply where there is a particular demand?

The problem with this view is that the market is inherently tied to already existing corporations, governments & industries. This means there is rarely an emphasis on developing technologies outside of already existing frameworks – for example rather than developing alternative clean energy sources, the current talk of 'clean coal' is purely a desperate response to keep the coal industry afloat. The logic of capitalism is to not abandon an area of such great profit, no matter what the human cost. Further, new technologies tied to a particular corporation or industry are never employed for the communal good as much as from a profit-driven interest.

Current strategies to improve the environment

Moving away from corporate-produced solutions to climate change has been a major consideration for many involved in this movement. It was also an important part of the discussion at this workshop as we considered how more revolutionary approaches needed to be at the forefront of this campaign & how this required engagement with people beyond the small enviro-activist milieu.

Creating alternatives

Some environment groups have attempted to create 'alternate ways of living', as an example of what is possible. This typically means using sustainable technology at conferences, camps, etc on a mass scale. For instance organic food co-operatives are promoted & all electricity at an event could be solar powered. This is an important first step because it demonstrates alternative ways that society can be organised. The idea expressed was that without these alternatives, communities reliant on the coal industry would simply dismiss environmental arguments out-of-hand. However, this needs to be undertaken in conjunction with broader initiatives. The question needs to be constantly asked: is this a revolutionary strategy or does it further legitimise green consumerism?

Building alliances

In the lead-up to Climate Camp a number of Newcastle activists began visiting coal communities. They discussed health, safety for workers, the limited amount of public space & tried to find out other specific concerns. They aimed to actually work with & puzzle out people's specific concerns around their daily lives. This is counterposed with just focusing relentlessly on 'big issues', like climate change & environmental apocalypse, without figuring out tangible links to most people's everyday reality. This seems to be an important step in the right direction.

Barriers to acting in solidarity with coal industry workers

The coal industry is a crucial economic part of the Newcastle region. It provides for people & supplies them with jobs. It is consequently very easy for the ruling class (politicians & executives of mining companies) to use 'divide & rule' tactics & to argue that environmentalists aiming to shut down key parts of the coal infrastructure are anti-coal workers.

In our discussions it was put forward that the enviro movement is made up of predominantly middle class students, which is a barrier to connecting & working in solidarity with coal industry workers. The way in which students use language (& twinkle fingers) in their organising is more representative

of subcultural practices rather than a genuine social movement. Within this subculture are multiple layers of assumed knowledge, some merely coded in the already mentioned language, but mostly present in interactions with anyone outside their immediate circles. However, others argued against this by saying that this barrier is not about the movement being predominantly middle class students, but rather is about students in the movement not being conscious of themselves as workers. If someone else profits from your time & labour then aren't you a worker, no matter whether you're a student as well?

What exacerbates this problem even further is that capitalism alienates & disempowers workers & makes it difficult for meaningful relationships with environmental allies to be forged. This is particularly true when there is no union presence, as in parts of the forest industry. Even when there is a strong union element it is typically bureaucratic & welded to social-democratic demands.

As a solution we need to have wide-ranging discussions with coal workers about how the industry might not be sustainable, why it might cease to exist, & what positive alternatives can be found.

What's so important about the working class?

Capitalism is a social relation & a system based on strong class divisions between different sectors of the population. However, its ability to sustain itself is entirely dependant on a productive, efficient & controllable workforce that can maintain profit margins. Through self-organisation, workers across any industry & in any sector have the power to disrupt & seize control of key infrastructure.

In terms of climate change this could have significant results. A rebellion of workers could stop coal exports all the time, instead of reducing coal exports by 18% in a week as the Newcastle Climate Camp actions did. In place of coal production, a self-organised workforce could also turn its skills to production of renewable energy without the imperative of needing to be profitable. Obviously such a change would need to be part of a wider dismantling of capitalism & could not occur in one workplace at a time. The revolutionary potential of the global working class needs to be realised as an essential part of the struggle for a sustainable world.

REGIONAL
ANARCHIST FEDERATION
MEETING
2PM SAT 30.8.08
JURA BOOKS 9550 9931
440 PARRAMATTA RD, PETERSHAM
TO INCREASE SYNERGY AND MUTUAL AID BETWEEN GROUPS AND SEEK WAYS TO WORK TOGETHER ON COMMON PROJECTS AND CAUSES
HOSTED BY SACF

We thought the workshop was successful for starting a dialogue about revolutionary ideas. If you're interested in reading more, a number of anarchists from Sydney & Melbourne have produced a newspaper on climate change & environment issues, called *Unless You Are Free*. Drop by your local anarchist infoshop, or e-mail us at mutineers@graffiti.net & we'll send you a free copy.

A flyer for a public meeting we organised about an arms fair in Adelaide, & some of the media that blamed us for its cancellation.

SHUT DOWN the Adelaide Arms Fair

In November Adelaide will host the Asia Pacific Defence & Security Exhibition.

Last time the merchants of death brought an international arms fair (AIDEX) to Australia, activists from all over the country descended on Canberra and shut them down - it's taken them 17 years to get up the courage to try it again.

This meeting will be a chance to hear from a speaker from Adelaide involved in preparations for anti-APDSE protests, & someone who was part of the AIDEX protests in Canberra.

---Public Meeting:
Friday 29th of August, 6.30pm at UTS

---Film Screening & discussion, with footage from the 1991 AIDEX protests:
Sunday 31st of August, 5pm at Black Rose Books, 22 Enmore Rd, near Newtown Station.

SA defence expo cancelled over violence fears from radical groups

Nigel Hunt, *Sunday Mail* (SA), September 07, 2008.

A MAJOR defence expo due to start in Adelaide on Remembrance Day has been cancelled amid fears of violence by radical protest groups.

Organisers of the Asia-Pacific Defence and Security Exhibition made the decision after talks with the State Government and police over planned protest action against the three-day event.

In recent weeks, police have given the Government several confidential briefings on the scale of the planned protests – including the participation of an ultra-radical group responsible for violence at last year's APEC meeting in Sydney – and the cost of the huge police operation to counter them.

Acting Premier Kevin Foley said yesterday the Government had full confidence in police to manage "these feral anarchists that would be descending on Adelaide" if the event, at the Convention Centre, had proceeded.

"However, the organisers had to take into account a number of factors, ranging from security issues as well as the level of support from the Defence Department," he said, also labelling the protesters "feral low-lifes".

"We had to weigh up a number of factors and the decision was taken that the cost of security, the possible threats of violence, were risks that on balance the organisers of the event and the Government agreed were not worth proceeding with."

Mr Foley said the decision should not be seen as a "victory" for the protest groups because the contacts with manufacturers made so far would be followed up.

The APDSE – an armaments trade fair – was to be held from November 11-13. The fair was part of a concerted push by the State Government to sell South Australia to the rest of the world as a defence state.

The executive director of APDS Exhibition Ltd, Phil Guy, yesterday confirmed the discussions with the Government and police leading up to the decision.

"The major issues discussed revolve around public safety, security risk levels and increased costs, plus the Commonwealth's failure to support the event," Mr Guy said.

"Earlier this week, SAPOL advised the Government and APDS about issues of public order and security leading up to and during the event.

"Police advise that the APDS exhibition is being targeted by highly organised and violent protesters with a history of focusing on similar defence and security events."

Sources said the State Government was alerted to the scale of the protests several weeks ago.

Police then briefed the Government's Emergency Management Committee on August 28. It is understood further meetings were held between the Premier's office and senior police this week which resulted in the discussions with organisers.

Mr Foley was critical of the protest groups, particularly those who resorted to violence.

"These are feral, low-life people that want society to be in a state of near anarchy for their own perverse pleasure," he said.

"Let's not mince words here. People who say they are anti-war but resort to violence and destruction to put their case are clearly a bunch of people who are dangerous to society.

"These are just anarchists that enjoy disrupting civil society. They do not have one fig of credibility."

Police Deputy Commissioner Gary Burns yesterday declined to comment, but police sources said senior officers had detailed to the Government the expected scope of the protests – around 500 protesters – and the "strong" likelihood of violence erupting.

The size and cost of the police operation was also detailed, along with assessments concerning public safety risks and disruption to the city over the period.

SAPOL's Protective Security Service command had been planning a massive security operation involving almost 500 police to control the protests.

All annual leave for police had been cancelled a month ago for the week of the operation and those involved were having their riot training updated.

It is known police had received accurate intelligence on the protesters who would attend, including members of the ultra-militant protest group Mutiny.

Mutiny, and another group called Arterial Bloc, were behind the violence at last year's APEC meeting in Sydney and the G20 meeting in Melbourne in 2006.

Many other protest groups have been attempting to rally support for their cause in recent weeks by dropping pamphlets at various events in the city.

Prior to the event being cancelled, peace activist Jacob Grech from OzPeace told the Sunday Mail he anticipated "around 500" protesters at the event.

Mr Grech organised similar protests at Canberra's AIDEX events in 1989 and 1991. The violence at the 1991 event resulted in a third defence expo planned for 1993 being cancelled.

He said plans were under way for several busloads of protesters to travel from Melbourne and Sydney and many had intended making their own way to Adelaide.

"We have a policy of non-violent direct action," he said. However, Mr Grech confirmed members of the militant Mutiny group were also planning to attend.

"I have heard some of them will be coming down from Sydney, but again the nature of the protest is going to be non-violent as far as we can determine," he said.

(THE THREAT OF) MASS DIRECT ACTION GETS THE GOODS
MUTINY STATEMENT ON THE CANCELLED WAR FAIR

When people first started talking about shutting down the APDSE (Asia Pacific Defence and Security Exhibition), which was to be held in Adelaide from November 11, it seemed like an almost impossible task. Now they've announced that they've called it off! And they called it off because of fears of protests from 'feral anarchists', including 'the ultra-militant protest group Mutiny.'

It's obvious that this victory really had very little to do with us. The arms fair was called off because of the hard work of many people organising against it. The South Australian government wasn't scared of our small collective: they were scared of disruption from the large, militant demonstration and blockade that was being planned. It's obvious that an arms fair isn't going to be popular. The state and the capitalist media aren't really fooling anyone when they call their weapons festival 'defence' & our plans to stand in its way 'violence'.

It's clear that when the acting SA premier talked about 'feral, low-life people,' who are 'dangerous to society,' he was talking about everyone who was planning to protest the arms fair. He was trying to insult and isolate everyone involved in grass roots organising: those who would have chosen to blockade, as well as those whose understanding of 'non-violence' would have led them to less direct forms of protest.

We see similarities between his use of the usual clichés to denounce the entire protest and how, in the past, certain protest groups have condemned others who do not strictly follow their ideas of what a protest should be. The strength of any mass protest is our ability to work together with a variety of tactics, & no group gains the right to dictate what behaviour is appropriate simply by calling themselves 'non-violent'.

We hope that next time there's such a public media attack on 'violent protesters' others will remember that it's an attack on them too, and will stand in solidarity with those targeted rather than seeking 'respectability' by distancing themselves (or by joining in the attack).

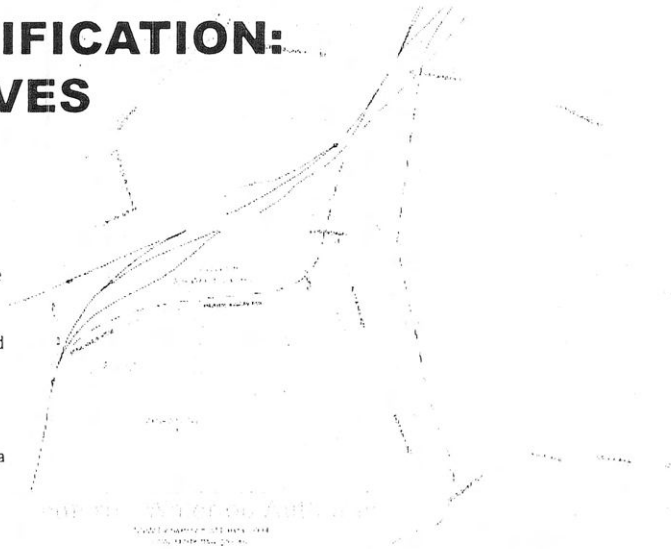
We all shut down the arms fair before it happened because it was clear that there was going to be a public and disruptive refusal to tolerate it, and that this was part of a broad opposition to the arms fair.

The cancellation of the arms fair showed clearly the power of shared intent & respect for a diversity of tactics. It was a victory because people who wanted to physically blockade the conference site refused to be excluded by debates about 'non-violence', but insisted that standing in the way of this arms fair was the right thing to do.

Mutiny was merely a scapegoat for the decision to shut it down. However, the successful protest planning - and the victory it won us all - makes us feel that, even though it has made us a target for police attention and unwanted publicity over the past few years, our decision to talk openly about the politics of militant direct action has been worth something.

From *Mutiny* #30, September 2008.

WAR & GENTRIFICATION: MUTINY EVOLVES

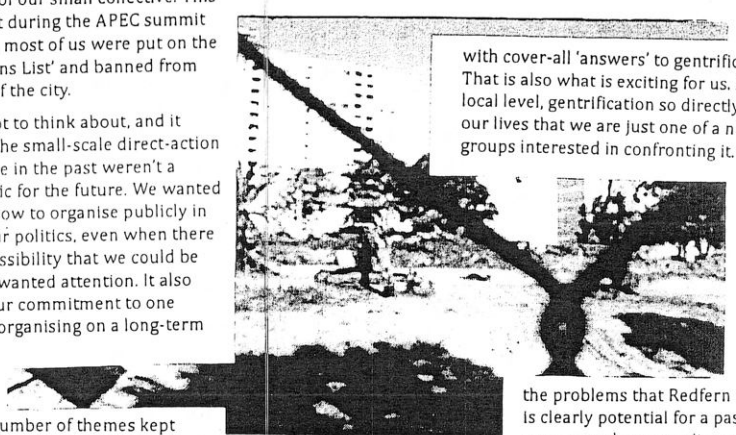


Mutiny Collective, Sydney

At war, in Iraq and elsewhere, we've seen the processes of capitalism brutally displace communities in a quest to open new markets and places for business to operate. Gentrification is a less brutal, more localised drive to similar ends. Mutiny is a collective that's been around for about five years - as long as the occupation of Iraq. We began as an anti-war collective with a direct-action focus and an interest in exposing the agenda that corporations have in war. This link is important in how we view our progression from a purely anti-war collective. We also always said that we didn't see the war as something that was happening to other people far away: we saw it as connected to our everyday lives and struggles here.

Beginning late last year, we spent a long time reflecting on what it was that brought us together as a collective, what politics we shared, and what work would be most meaningful for our group to take on. 'Mutiny' had become something of a media and police scapegoat as 'violent anarchists', well beyond the real actions of our small collective. This reached a height during the APEC summit in Sydney, when most of us were put on the 'Excluded Persons List' and banned from entering parts of the city.

This gave us a lot to think about, and it suggested that the small-scale direct-action stunts we'd done in the past weren't a sustainable tactic for the future. We wanted to think about how to organise publicly in keeping with our politics, even when there was a strong possibility that we could be the target of unwanted attention. It also strengthened our commitment to one another and to organising on a long-term basis.



As we talked, a number of themes kept coming up. We wanted to move away from the cycles of activism, of hopping from protest to protest. We wanted to find work that was grounded in our neighbourhoods, and was relevant to our own lives: such as the issues around housing that many of us were facing along with much of Sydney. We wanted to find ways to work in meaningful solidarity with Indigenous people. We wanted to build relationships with other organisers, including people outside of our political traditions, by working together on

The issues facing Redfern-Waterloo fitted with all of these concerns, and we decided to make a commitment to see what we could do for at least the next six months.

For us, it's a priority to build bridges between us to fight the RWA, for genuinely affordable housing and for control of where we live. Having said that we do not want to (and could not) even attempt to come up with cover-all 'answers' to gentrification. That is also what is exciting for us. At this local level, gentrification so directly affects our lives that we are just one of a number of groups interested in confronting it. For all the problems that Redfern may have, there is clearly potential for a passionate and empowered community resistance.

Beyond researching and distributing information, Mutiny really wants to meet up with people and groups that are interested in fighting against what's going on in Redfern. We aren't opposed to all change, just change that is forced upon people from above. We think those living in and with a real stake in the area should be the ones deciding what's best. From both experience and what we believe politically (and we are still an anarchist collective), we see no use in

GENTRIFICATION IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD: THE REDFERN 'REDEVELOPMENT'

With rents on the rise, trendy cafes and art gallery strips popping up alongside high rise apartments and office blocks, it would seem that things are changing fast around our neighbourhood. Public housing is being overhauled, services are closing and heritage sites are being knocked down. Some of this has been going on for a long time, but it seems that in recent times it's going faster than ever. All of this doesn't just happen on its own. We think that it is skillfully designed by governments and developers whose top priority is profit making.

It can seem like rising rents are just a force of nature – it happens everywhere, eventually all renters just have to move somewhere further out of the city, to somewhere cheaper, right? But the pressure on us to pay more than we can afford - or move away - doesn't come from nowhere. Rents rise because landlords want to make money. This isn't inevitable: there's no good reason why our need for somewhere to live should depend on someone else being able to profit. And the changes happening in Redfern/Waterloo are driven by state government policy – they'll sell off public housing and public assets because they want to turn Redfern into a new CBD. It is greedy landlords and state government policy that force rents way beyond what poor and working class communities can afford. It is these same two groups who decide when and how to 'develop' a community – without even trying to engage with the actual community.

In late 2004, the NSW government formed the Redfern-Waterloo Authority (RWA). With enormous power to do whatever the hell they want, the RWA makes it clear that there is a time frame and a big fat budget for the significant and irreversible changes we're talking about.

The RWA justifies its existence by saying its actions are all part of an exciting, grand plan that will 'revitalise' Redfern-Waterloo. But unfortunately what the RWA means by 'revitalisation' is out of line with the common good. Practically, revitalisation entails the replacement of our communities from the area, with more 'respectable' affluent residents who can afford higher rents.

For one, they claim that they have to sell huge amounts of publicly owned land, housing & infrastructure to pay for the redevelopment that Redfern station needs. That's like saying that you have to sell Sydney Hospital to upgrade Town Hall station. They refuse to pay for normal upgrades of public resources. Instead they say an underprivileged area should pay for its own basic needs.

How the RWA came into being says a lot about its true colours. Documents leaked in 2004 showed that the government was talking about making Redfern a new North Sydney: a transport hub surrounded by office towers and expensive apartments.

"Maximising market value the main game" read the headline of the Sydney Morning Herald in late 2004. The development value of all of Redfern-Waterloo is at least $5 billion-and the state government owns almost a third of the land. The original papers

pretty much state openly that nothing should get in the way of maximising that value, and then selling it off for profit.

The RWA wants to completely change the character of Redfern-Waterloo. There is a strong Aboriginal and working class history of the area, of which many of us are proud. However, in order for the area to become a key part of the CBD and a haven for commerce and business, common understandings of Redfern need to change - it needs to be made more attractive to rich people.

One way this is being done is by governments and businesses marketing the area as a 'newly discovered' place for arts & culture-as if there was no life and culture here before a few swish venues were brought in.

Art galleries, performance spaces and cafes can be fantastic, but only when they are accessible to all of us. But is it such a good thing if they aren't? When the chip shop gets shut down and replaced by the white table cloth place with $30 meals, clearly not everyone will be able to enjoy eating out. The thing is that because business owners make more money off rich people, the influence of their big dollars tends to be overwhelming and doesn't leave much space for those without. The "discovery" of our neighbourhood's hot night spots by trendy magazines and the "what's on" pages of local newspapers would almost make you think that there was nothing here before. We know that's not the case. Redfern is full of home-grown community initiatives and inspiring stories.

Sometimes there are other signs of change. For example when home owners on Edward St, Darlington tried to shut down a long-running community centre called The Settlement. Getting rid of the people who used the community centre would have driven up the price of their property on the street. More and more housing stresses and crises are affecting our daily lives.

The RWA's plans for housing are also definitely in huge contrast to the needs of all. In their development plan for Redfern-Waterloo they do talk about making a small portion of homes 'affordable housing'. But what they mean by affordable housing is plans that could be afforded by people on moderate incomes and could be reserved for people who work in 'essential professions'; such as teachers, nurses and cops.

But if you look at 2006 census statistics between 39% and 51% of households in Darlington, Redfern & Waterloo are on 'very low' or 'low' incomes, and only 14% to 18% make 'moderate' incomes. The RWA's talk about a small percentage of houses that may be accessible to a few clearly does nothing to help the large number of locals on even lower incomes.

It means that most housing not set aside as 'affordable' will be priced too high for nearly everyone. If more expensive new developments go ahead they will, by design, put upward pressure on existing rents in the area: that's what 'revitalising' the suburb means to the RWA. It also ignores the political pressure being put on public housing, which will only increase if the average income of our neighbourhood goes up.

People on the lowest incomes should not be set against people in 'essential industries' making only slightly more; people working some low-income jobs shouldn't be pitted

against others. We need to demand housing that will genuinely serve people who are otherwise being systematically priced out and pushed out of our city. In other words, housing for working class and Aboriginal communities, who aren't part of a rich or professional elite.

The changes that are happening on our doorstep has a name. It's called 'gentrification', which generally means that most of us, sooner or later will be pushed out of our homes. The way we live our lives here in Redfern-Waterloo will be changed and if we can't meet the criteria or pay the money to remain here... tough luck. This process of gentrification is one of class transformation – poor and working class people are being kicked out and will continue to be kicked out, in order to make way for those with more wealth.

Usually the process of pushing 'unwanted' people out of an area comes with hype about crime and drugs, talk about 'cleaning up' the place by installing more security. This comes in the form of constant police patrols, surveillance cameras and gated communities... Sound familiar?

Gentrification of our neighbourhood has a direct effect on Aboriginal people. In March 2005, Ken Morrison, executive director of the Property Council of Australia said openly that "there is no way that Redfern is going to be that commercial mini-centre with Aboriginal housing and the Block still in place. We need to sort that out before any private investors will be interested." There are clearly powerful people who are committed to driving Aboriginals off their land.

Are the changes that are going on in our neighbourhood unstoppable? Is gentrification inevitable? We don't think so. Just because people have more money than others doesn't mean that they should have more power than those who have less. There are other ways that society can be organised. Poor and working class communities- our community- have a right to make decisions about changes and developments that directly affect us.

When we started thinking about all of these things happening around us, we realised that it's not just happening to us: it's a common story told by thousands of cities all over the world. And then we realised that people living in places where this is happening don't just sit quietly and put up with it.
Gentrification is not inevitable because it is possible for us to organise and voice our demands. We can demand affordable housing, accessible art and community spaces, & neighbourhood control over decisions affecting our lives and over the development of the area. We, the people who live, work and play in Redfern-Waterloo, should be able to decide for ourselves what developments occur, and how and where, and we should also be able to refuse evictions and the demolition of existing buildings if it is not in our interest.

Achieving neighbourhood control sounds like a difficult and possibly strange idea, but through a process of meeting and talking together we could start working on ways to make this happen. We can decide if and how we want development to occur: we can fight for what we value and create what we need. We don't have to let our neighbourhood become a playground for the rich-we talk back and take it back for those who live here and for those who want to come and enjoy it for what it is.

The Mutiny Collective

Published in *Mutiny* zine #42, September 2009

On court and solidarity. by the mutiny collective.

The legal process from all the G20 arrests isn't over yet: it looks like the last charge of unlawful assembly that the jury couldn't agree on won't be tried until next year. Nevertheless, we've been able to draw a sigh of relief. With not guilty verdicts on the most significant charges, we don't have to worry about more friends and comrades going to jail this time. It's important, however, not to let these good verdicts make us complacent or lead us to ignore how significant – and how traumatic – these G20 cases have been. As revolutionaries we don't have any faith in the legal system to bring 'justice': the fact that our friends were found not guilty on many charges this time doesn't mean that we'll be safe next time. While the verdicts were a huge relief, they also obscure the degree to which the entire legal process – from arrests, through drawn out hearings and years of waiting, to the weeks of trials – consists of various forms of punishment.

I went from Sydney to Melbourne for the first week of Sina's trial. It was strange and disconcerting for me to run into acquaintances from the general activist left milieu who didn't know that the trial was even happening. It made me feel like I was kind of crazy – maybe this thing that had taken over so much of my life (partly without my choice but also because I'd chosen G20 solidarity work as politically important) wasn't that important to anyone else.

Part of the problem was that the process had simply been dragged on for so long. From dramatic and difficult beginnings, we'd had years of court appearances, bail hearings, mentions, sentencings and appeals. The time scale makes it easy for those not closely involved in events to lose track.

But the fact remains that solidarity is a long-term process.

The Melbourne G20 actions occurred in November 2006. It took a long time to pass for the resolution of a couple of actions to come to a close. Certainly this is not the longest political case by any measure, nor should it come as a surprise that the state has an interest at times in keeping people locked into the routines and banal rhythms of the legal system. So, the question of what we as people and friends and comrades of people who have, and undoubtedly will again face this situation, can learn from this experience has to take a form that is relevant to our practice and lives. One of the clear problems that came out of this most recent experience, from our perspective, can be thought of as perhaps the timeline of an action: where does commitment to an action begin and end?

Before taking part in the days of G20 actions, probably there was little consideration of what the aftermath might be like. Certainly, many people were taken by surprise on the Saturday, with no one really thinking anything like what happened was possible. In this sense, we were confronted as much by surprise as the state was. What the impact of this surprise ended up looking like became a problem of solidarity with the arrestees. For many, commitment to that action could

end the day after or at least not long after the events actually finished. For others this took longer. Others had no choice. But, clearly, with the material need for forms of solidarity to have continued until it's all finished in the courts – not to mention the question of supporting people in and after jail - the question of the where, when, form and longevity of solidarity is a very real one.

Dealing with the aftermath is as much a part of the action, and as much a part of the movement as the more exciting elements of what we do. Solidarity work can be boring work, and may not always have the explicitly political front that some would prefer, but neglecting the question of solidarity is a real problem within the movements. Some have criticised the notion or emphasis upon fundraising over politics as it played out in the G20 solidarity. This question raises a number of discussions about what the relationship between a political and legal campaign looks like and what the role of arrestees in a political campaign should or could be.

The arrestee becomes an object in the schema of political movements and maneuvering as soon as one takes the position that solidarity, and political solidarity, can only be expressed through an explicitly political campaign. Bundled up in all of the arguments about political campaigns are numerous assumptions about 'real politics' that need to be unpacked at some other time. Suffice to say for now: the state's targeting of individuals, and of us collectively through individuals, becomes a lived experience, material and subjective for the arrestees. Our response to this reality is in the most profound and direct sense, a reflection of how we think the practice of radical politics and change happens. This necessarily implies the reality that solidarity takes numerous forms, which fulfill different needs.

Solidarity in itself is an important campaign – regardless of the form it takes. It should never be thought of as something other to the movement. We can't think that there is something more important to be doing elsewhere at the expense of engaging with the reality of an existing trial. This doesn't mean that we can or should drop everything else that we are doing as soon as someone gets arrested, but it does mean that solidarity needs to be given more time and political importance in its own right, than it appears to have in Australia at present. We can't think of change, and self-reproducing movements if we think only of the next big action, event or campaign, whilst neglecting the reality that the state tries to fuck us up, and that this at times takes the form of charges, trials, and prison. That is, we have to defend ourselves not just at the barricades, or the lock-on site, or the picket, but in between these moments and spaces.

Stress on arrestees during a long court process and questions of what it means to provide support and solidarity all reach their peak in the very limiting physical space of the court complex and courtroom itself. Turning up in court day after day for two and a half weeks for the aggravated burglary trial made acute the arcane hierarchies and oppressiveness of the legal system and how the highly formalised language and structure are designed to intimidate, isolate and pressure arrestees into caving in. And of course this trial was only the end of a case that dragged on for more than two years, during which life for the arrestees was punctuated by court appearances and meetings with lawyers.

The presence of people at court to offer support and solidarity at hearings and trials helps somewhat to counter the disempowerment felt by those going through trial. At the basest level it means people who are facing political charges don't feel alone and isolated. It was also

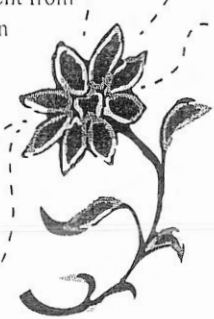
noticeably important during the drawn out aggravated burglary trial, because it gave the arrestees people who aren't lawyers and whom they actually trust, someone to talk to and have a cigarette or coffee with during the frequent recesses and for the three days it took the jury to return a verdict. Having comrades to talk to at these times helped to reduce the stress and anxiety, whether it was to debrief about what was happening with the trial or to talk about something totally different. Also people bringing us lunch at court, and those who gave us out-of-towners places to stay and general hospitality were much appreciated and helped greatly with being able to cope with the overall situation.

The court area is also an intimidating place where making decisions can be difficult and where lawyers exert a lot of influence. Political solidarity here is crucial to give people the option of stepping away from their lawyers when making decisions and being able to confer with comrades. There were certainly times over the course of the G20 case that it seemed arrestees under the stress of the court process and pressure from their lawyers made rash decisions. Having comrades physically there (and of course not just in court, but in the periods between as well) hopefully can help people feel like their lawyers don't have to be their first point of reference when making decisions.

While lawyers have their role and their expertise, they are part of the system that does not understand collectivity and collective responsibility. Their job is to represent their individual client and this can mean that the arguments they make in court can impact on other arrestees. It is important for arrestees to work together and with those offering solidarity in directing their lawyers. The aggravated burglary trial was an example of this occurring fairly well and it was one of the strengths that contributed to the successful verdict.

Acting collectively as best we can in this process means lawyers can't run divisive campaigns. It can help to ensure that the privileges of some in terms of race and class background – which play out so strongly in the legal system – can be extended across differences rather than being used to divide arrestees or benefit only a few. This is important because as much as we might sometimes want to, the courtroom is not a place that allows for the articulation of revolutionary politics. Certainly, in the aggravated burglary case even when elements of a political defence were used, they never extended beyond the niceties of liberal-left pacifism. This can be frustrating but the best we can do is stand together and push their rules as best we can to get a good outcome (although there may be some disagreement here, as some people feel it is still worth taking a strong political line to court).

While the next time people are arrested or face trial will probably be as different from the G20 cases as they were from anything prior, we still hope that we can learn from what we went through. This discussion was begun, in part, at a meeting held in Melbourne during the trial; we need to continue to think through the difficult questions of how to make solidarity meaningful. This article only touches on many of the issues and we hope a lot more is written and distributed in the coming months about this long and draining process.



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The Zombie Dance of Social Democracy

:the Mutiny Collective

Social democracy is the new black. In the wake of the global financial crisis, everyone's talking about Keynes again. In parties all throughout the rich, powerful countries of the world, all you hear is gasps of "Oh my god, Keynes is so good" or "He is so hot" or "Keynes? JM to me. Did you hear what he said about money?" and "I heard he saved capitalism". The saviour, shunned for the past 30 years in an unrelenting barrage of neoliberalism, has come again.

It's Keynes' brilliance that has brought us the billion-dollar bailouts and stimulus packages. From Rudd to Obama to Brown, everyone's suddenly his biggest fan. And with Keynes' popularity reignited comes a renewed push for social democracy. It was Keynes after all who advocated for big government spending on welfare and other public infrastructure in times of crisis as a way of keeping the economy going.

Pretty much everyone is a critic of neoliberalism these days, even those who were, just 3 years ago, its greatest proponents. But only the most rabid neoliberals hate social democracy. It's the great compromise – the only reasonable option – the one that saves us from the laissez faire hell of neoliberalism (which, surprise surprise, hasn't worked out that well) and the competing evil grip of fascism. The only problem is, all 3 options seem a bit crap.

What is social democracy?

Social democracy is the name given to the socialist goal of anti-capitalist revolution, that became so watered-down throughout the 20th century that it now consists of little more than the demand for a mixed economy. The glorious marriage of government and capitalism. A warmer, cosier capitalism. The welfare state.

By the end of WWII, under Keynesian influence, most western governments were willing to adopt social democratic demands: government subsidised health-care, aged-pensions, unemployment benefits, a livable minimum wage, free education, etc. The demands are reasonable. Once implemented, they keep people from starving, or dying from lack of access to health care. They promote literacy, and can go some way towards assuaging class divisions.

But at the same time, their implementation necessarily works to create new organs of government control – hospitals, welfare offices and schools take on policing roles, and work to further political agendas, often at the expense of those who rely on these

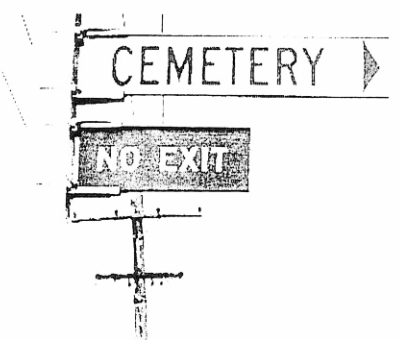
services. Further, for the small degree to which social democracy can ameliorate the inequalities arising from class divisions – through universal access to health care and education – it primarily works to reinforce the existence of class, by actively forestalling revolution.

Social Democracy and Revolution.

Social democracy arose out of working class struggle – capital needed to satisfy, to some extent, various demands of the working class. In Europe, post-WWI, revolutionary working class struggle was agitating in various forms. It was this pressure and force that created fear of revolution within the ruling class. This led to the various concessions granted on behalf of capital, for the benefit of the working class. Through the attainment of, for example rising real wages, inclusive welfare, trade union rights, the working class seemed content to give up its revolutionary desire. The comfort zone that was created through these concessions, sought to contain the working class and keep them reasonably happy, in order to maintain the capitalist system.

The institutionalisation of struggles, through trade unions or social democratic parties, highlights the inherent contradiction that is riddled throughout social democracy. On the one hand, these unions emphasise strength in collective organising, however, the de-politicised and bureaucratic form that characterises unions in many countries today (there are of course obvious exceptions), often means that these institutions will, first and foremost, seek to ensure their continued existence. For example, trade unions will help to organise for 'bread and butter' demands, such as wage increases. Yet, it remains in their interest to maintain the current class relation and not articulate an analysis that would perhaps offer an alternative. Whilst the working class is mobilised through social democratic demands, it is simultaneously demobilised, so that struggle is somewhat contained as to never truly challenge the class relation.

Some within the left would argue that social democracy is a stepping stone towards revolution, and thus making social democratic demands is useful. However, social democracy as it exists today, no longer truly attempts to articulate an analysis beyond capitalism. Hence, any struggle arguing for social democracy is essentially reformist and thus, negates a revolutionary politic. Revolutionary change does not lie further along the path of social democracy, it lies on a different road altogether. Social democracy is in fact, a one-way dead-end street.



But what about healthcare and education and welfare?

For a lot of folks who are critical of the state, this question is the sticking point. No one wants people to starve because they don't have jobs. No one wants people to die

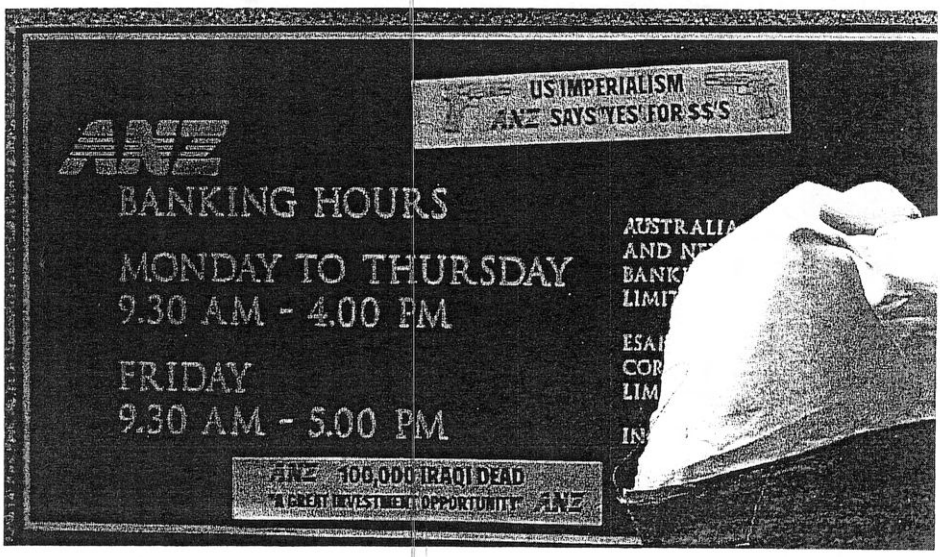
because they can't afford healthcare. No one wants to be homeless because they've lost their job. To fight for an end to social democracy, on the premise that by taking away the safety net, the multitude will become revolutionary, is abominable. It's the most odious kind of cynicism.

To suggest that the working class should lose access to government services at a time when the state is providing private enterprises with the biggest hand-outs of all time similarly makes little sense. Such a move would just further exacerbate the divide between the ruling and working classes, especially when we consider the neoliberal attacks the global working class has been enduring for the past 30 years, which are sure to continue.

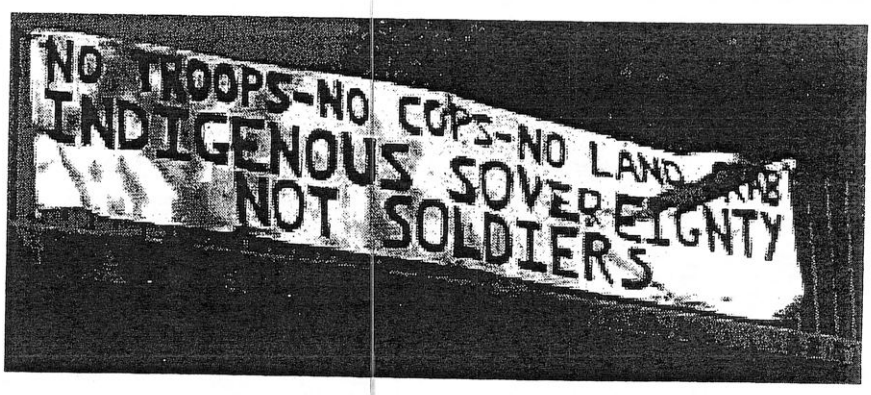
What we need to keep in mind is that we aren't limited to a choice between dependency on the whims of the state and starvation. Whilst we are currently forced to live in a "mixed economy", we can't be blinkered into believing that our only other options are neoliberalism or facism (as many would have us believe). It has been argued that a focus on "mutual aid" as a response to social democracy is simply 'ahistorical posturing'. Though we should be wary of falling into such a trap, we also need to recognise the political importance of such projects and their role in revolutionary struggle. Beyond the control of the state, mutual aid housing projects, friendly societies, schools, health centers, etc have all proven throughout history, and across the world, their potential to enable communities to realise their practical, day-to-day independence from both the state and capitalism. The practice of such alternatives is the only way in which social democracy can be truly accosted by the working class.

Whilst social democracy is currently enjoying a resurgence (in theory if not in practice), it's inevitable that this won't last. Attacks on workers' rights; on healthcare; on welfare will continue as government coffers run low. Already in Australia, PM Rudd is warning of lean times and budget cuts ahead (stimulus packages have to be paid for from somewhere) - suggesting that the already woeful services will decline even further.

The question we are then faced with is: do we fight to retain these government services, which are contradictory at best; or do we use our energies to create other forms of aid in our communities, that go beyond the control of the state, and that embody revolutionary practice?



Stickers from an ANZ action, August 2005.



A banner over Paramatta Rd, from July 2007, against the government intervention into Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory

"Mutiny is an anarchist group consisting of a number of layers of trust and information management. Currently it consists of a small group of individuals who form what appears to be an inner core group responsible for the clandestine planning and preparation for violence and malicious damage aimed at police and APEC corporate targets. This core group meets regularly at a covert location to discuss the details of these plans."

NSW police, September 2007

"Mutiny is a group interested in exploring different ways to resist war at home and abroad."

Mutiny, 2005

Collected here for the first time are six year's worth of articles, action reports, posters, flyers, and media and police clippings related to the activities of Mutiny, Sydney's most attractive and personable collective.

There are articles on war and militarism; summit protests and direct action; Australian colonialism in the Pacific; gentrification and a range of other issues.

Somewhere between a grand summing-up and a potted history, this collection of writings and ephemera offers a sense of the evolution of one anarchist collective, and somewhat of a snapshot of Sydney activist history over a few years.